



Hang on to holiday spirit

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Explore Beats of the past

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Russian swan lands on bird's nest

Valery Gergiev, the famous Russian master of opera, promised 10 years ago that he would perform at the China National Grand Theater. He will make good on that promise starting Tuesday, when his Mariinsky Theater and 500 actors present the group's greatest works

for 11 days straight.

While touring the city before opening night, Gergiev visited the new National Stadium, which will be the site of the opening ceremony of next year's Olympic Games.

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Photo by Mark Dong

Ancient ship- wreck salvaged with priceless booty

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ATM thief plans to appeal case

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Country considers new food safety law

A draft law on food safety was submitted to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), or China's top legislature, for first reading Wednesday.

"Imported food must be in accordance with the national food safety standards and labeling system. Exported food must meet the requirements of destination countries and pass the examination of inspection and quarantine institutions of foreign countries," the draft stated.

The draft proposed a food safety risk evaluation mechanism, providing a "key basis" for constituting food safety standards and food-borne disease control measures.

A related supervision system, covering food production, process-

ing, delivery, storage and sales, must be set up to ensure every procedure was under control.

It also stipulated a labeling system requiring food manufacturers to be responsible for statements about ingredients, additives, expiration dates and functions on user manuals and packages.

The draft law also called for the establishment of a recall system to urge food producers and dealers to stop producing and selling, and to recall unsafe food if problems are found.

"Recalled food must be destroyed or undergo treatment," it said.

The draft proposed a national food safety information release system. Food safety warnings, food safety incidents and other

information that may cause the public to panic must be released by departments authorized by the State Council.

"The information release must be accurate, objective and timely. Explanations of harm caused by unsafe food must be made public," it said.

Food producers and dealers, who made or sold meat from diseased or poisoned animals, food with banned ingredients and baby food with substandard materials, would be severely punished, according to the draft.

Food safety supervision department officials would also face severe penalties if found to abuse their power or be in dereliction of duty, it said.

China's current food hygiene

law took effect in 1995, but many lawmakers said it didn't meet the needs of practice.

Cao Kangtai, director of the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council, told the legislative session that food safety incidents occurred from time to time. Unsafe factors existed in many kinds of food, which caused the public to lose confidence in domestic food and damaged the reputation of China-made food around the world.

"A lack of systematic food safety standards and supervision network are to blame," he said.

Since last year, Chinese industries have been under the spotlight of domestic and foreign consumers concerned about substandard products -

especially food. The scandals have included vegetables with pesticide residue, fish contaminated with suspected carcinogens and eggs tainted with the industrial dye Sudan Red.

In response to the reported scandals, the government introduced a new recall system this summer, began a four-month national product quality inspection campaign and issued a measure that requires labeling of all food exports with an inspection and quarantine symbol.

The country has 448,000 food production and processing companies which produced an output value of 1.28 trillion yuan in the first half of this year, up 30 percent year-on-year.

(Xinhua)

Police call on public to bust capital's thieves

By Jiang Xubo

The Beijing government has called on passengers to act as paid informers in the fight to create "thief-free" public vehicles for next year's Olympic Games.

The police division for public security in public vehicles launched a long-term public recruitment campaign Wednesday, encouraging residents to become volunteers and provide tip-offs.

Informants are expected to perform their duties while taking public vehicles, providing fast information about how thieves work and what they look like.

"All informants must make personal security the top priority. They must work without exposing themselves to danger by taking pictures with their cell phones," an unnamed officer in charge of the recruitment campaign told the *Beijing News*.

The police will file all information received and send it to on-duty officers. Informants will be awarded if their information leads to the arrest of a thief. The top 10 informers who contribute the most information will be given an annual prize, the officer said without elaborating on the specifics.

Informants will attend training courses held by the police and learn the basic skills required to identify a thief. The course for the first group of informants will begin soon.

Anyone living in the capital can apply to participate. All candidates must provide detailed personal information, including their name, ID number and valid contact information.

The police will create a file of candidates who make it through training to create a stable anti-thief team. All information will be kept confidential to ensure security.

Anti-theft forces have led to the resolution of 700 theft reports and the collapse of 70 theft rings this year.

The police received 300 messages from the public, which led to the arrests of 130 thieves.

Anyone interested can call the police at 6401 1327, send an email to bj64011327@126.com or visit the police at 21, Beixinqiao Paoju Hutong in Dongcheng District.

Mouse to bless temple fair



A committee of seven experts unveiled the mascot for the annual Beijing Ditan Temple Fair yesterday, which is expected to be held during Spring Festival. Blessed mice designed by Li Zhaoyan, a folk artist from Heilongjiang Province, won the honor among over 100 draft designs from across the country.

Photo by Lin Hui

Medical reform highlights gov responsibility

The country's new medical reform plan, which aims to provide universal basic services at reasonable prices, will increase government responsibility and input, Health Minister Chen Zhu said Wednesday.

"The government should play a leading role in providing medical care and public health services," Chen said in a report on the reform of medical care and the public health system delivered to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature.

"Both the central and local governments should 'significantly' increase input in the health sector," Chen said.

While attending to both the needs of medical institutions and patients, additional funds will be mainly used to provide Medicare in rural areas and urban communities to reduce medical costs borne by patients.

According to the report, the government, society and individuals will split the cost of basic medical care. Specialized medical care, however, should be covered

by patients or through commercial health insurance.

Chen acknowledged the "imbalanced" allocation of medical resources, which were concentrated in major urban hospitals.

The minister promised in the report to set up a basic Medicare network by 2010 to reduce the widening gap of medical services among different income groups and regions. By 2020, China will establish a basic Medicare network for the whole population.

The public health service network will include rural cooperative Medicare, urban community medical services and public hospital management systems.

According to the report, the government will set up an independent system on the production, procurement and distribution of basic drugs, which will be on a list drawn up by the central government, to ensure drug safety and reduce prices.

"The aim is to provide safe, effective, convenient and low-cost public health and basic Medicare services to both rural and urban citizens," Chen said.

Due to a lack of government funding, public medical institutions have, for years, operated using profits from medical services and drug prescriptions.

"We will gradually reduce hospital involvement in drug sales to cut drug prices," Chen said, noting that any resulting shortfall could be met by government subsidies and a reasonable rise in medical service fees.

After more than a year's work, the country has mapped out the basic outline and general framework for reform of the medical care and public health system, Chen said.

Growing public criticism of soaring medical fees, lack of access, poor doctor-patient relations and low coverage of the Medicare system has compelled the government to launch the medical reform, which involved 16 ministries and commissions in a 2006 brainstorming session.

Eight think tanks or research organizations, including the World Health Organization submitted proposals on reform to the ministry.

(Xinhua)

Brief news

Billions in public funds misused

The National Audit Office said Wednesday that it found central government agencies misused 6.87 billion yuan of public funds without authorization during the first 11 months of this year.

170 million yuan of state compensation

The country has closed about 12,000 cases seeking state compensation in the past five years and paid 170 million yuan in compensation to citizens, Xiao Yang, chief justice of the Supreme People's Court, said Wednesday.

43 billion yuan in back wages

Government at all levels recovered 43 billion yuan in migrant workers' back pay since 2003, Sun Baoshu, vice minister of Labor and Social Security, said Wednesday.

Tax revenue hits 5 trillion yuan

The country's tax revenue is expected to surpass 4.9 trillion yuan in 2007, up 30 percent year on year, ranking one of the highest annual tax growth rates since 1978, Xiao Jie, director of the State Administration of Taxation, said Tuesday.

Bird flu vaccine passes tests

The bird flu vaccination developed for human use by Sinovac Biotech and the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention proved "safe" and "effective" during the second phase of clinical tests, Zhang Jiansan, vice general manager of the Sinovac Biotech, said this week.

Lottery fetches 60 billion yuan

Annual sales of China Welfare Lottery tickets climbed to 60 billion yuan as of last week, up 29 percent year-on-year. The sales have raised about 21 billion yuan for public welfare, a spokesman for the China Welfare Lottery Management Center said Sunday.

One million patent applications

The government accepted a million patent applications in the past 18 months for a total of four million patents since 1985 when Patent Law took effect, Wang Xiaohu, a spokesman for the State Intellectual Property Office, said Tuesday.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Tiger slaughter leaves zoo closed

By Jiang Xubo

A funds-strapped Hubei Province zoo has been shut down after a rare Siberian tiger was found beheaded and skinned on its premises last week.

The tiger is the latest in a string of seven dead tigers in the last four years, Xinhua reported Wednesday.

Local forestry and police agencies in Yichang, where the zoo is located, ordered it closed while a range of measures are implemented to improve animal security and living conditions.

The order came one week after the bodies of two stillborn Bengal tiger cubs were found in a refrigerator at the Three Gorges Forest Wild Animal World.

The cubs were stillborn on November 28, and there was no indication of foul play in their deaths. However, the forestry bureau said the zoo failed to follow regulations for the disposal of dead animals.

Officials confirmed that the zoo had filed seven other reports

of tiger deaths due to starvation, sickness or battle wounds since late 2003.

Cao Guangyi, the bureau spokesman, told a news conference on Tuesday that the tiger hides and bones had been preserved in line with national regulations. He denied media reports that the zoo was producing traditional alcoholic beverages made of tiger parts for profit.

The zoo came under scrutiny after a six-year-old female tiger was found dead last Thursday

morning with its head, legs and skin missing.

Local police believed the animal was poached and launched a hunt for the culprits beginning last week. The police offered a 10,000 yuan award for information leading to the arrest of the poachers.

Siberian tigers, also known as Amur tigers, are among the world's 10 most endangered species. They live in northeast China and the Russian Far East. Only 400 are thought to live in

the wild.

The flood of visitors to the zoo when it opened in October 2002 slowed to a trickle by 2003, leaving it financially strapped to care for its 15 tigers, five bears, six African lions, two wolves, 60 monkeys and a collection of birds.

Only five employees took charge of daily operations.

"The zoo is losing money," Wang Jianxiang, the zookeeper, said, "This month we only had a total of 20 visitors."

Suicide pact breaker jailed

By Han Manman

A Henan man came to regret his and his girlfriend's tandem suicide leap after being sentenced to three years in prison and four years of probation after being convicted of murder, Monday.

Dou, 18, the man, met a girl named Yuan online. The two quickly fell in love, but their relationship was opposed by both parents. On the evening of June 3, the couple jumped together into a river in Xiangcheng County, Henan Province, as part of a suicide pact.

While Yuan kept her part of the promise and leaped into the river, Dou had a change of heart. He tried to find Yuan and save her, but she sank to the bottom of the river and he was unable to locate her.

Dou was found guilty of murder in a Xiangcheng County courtroom Monday. It was the court's opinion that although Dou attempted to save Yuan, he did not intervene earlier or attempt to prevent her jump which was the direct cause of her death. The court believed that Dou's behavior was equivalent to murder.

As Dou was under age 18 when the crime was committed, and because he turned himself in to the police, the court chose to sentence him to three years in prison and a four-year probation period.

Many netizens have opposed the verdict, because the girl chose to end her life on her own.

"Dou didn't jump because he was afraid of death. I don't think he did anything wrong except for failing to keep his pact with Yuan," Yang Xue, an Internet user, wrote. "If he is guilty of any crime, it should be manslaughter, not murder."

Li Yongjian, a lawyer from the Beijing Huijia Law Office, said that in such cases, it comes down to the opinion of the judge. Some bail out of a suicide pact due to fear, but others have darker motives, Li said.

He said Dou's crime was not failing to jump, but failing to act when he knew Yuan was planning to jump. "As the only other person at the scene, Dou has a duty to try his best to save Yuan and call for help. He failed to carry out this duty," Li said.

When looking at similar cases, Dou's sentence is comparatively light, Li said.

Laughter kills kid's pain



A clown entertained children yesterday to relieve their pain at the Beijing-based New Century International Children's Hospital. The hospital offers entertainment every Monday and Thursday to relieve young patients' suffering.

Photo by Fu Ding

Scholar conducts field survey on male sex workers' life

By Jackie Zhang

Having lived with male sex workers for two months, Fang Gang, a local scholar, recently completed his doctoral thesis on how their work affects their concepts of masculinity.

Investigation results

Fang said that the job of male sex worker is like any other, but carries its unique psychological challenges.

For the male sex worker, self worth is a serious issue, and many when faced with female customers, try to escape. Many also have difficulty performing, or even if they perform, doing so reliably, he said.

"Some are poor communicators, and are likely to get dropped. Men who are good conversationalists tend to earn more money. Of course, the physical side of things is also important," Fang said.

Fang's investigation in Shenzhen, Beijing and Taipei found that cultural background carries psychological consequences for the male sex worker.

"In Shenzhen, the male sex

workers suffer less such a social burden. However, the workers in Beijing and Taipei said they had psychological barriers and were ambivalent about their jobs," he said.

In the thesis, he argues that male sex workers suffer from a complex climate that forces a shift in their image of masculinity.

The field survey

Fang, a psychology teacher at Beijing Forestry University and a PhD in sociology, began his sex research in 1993. Most of his studies focus on men, sex, marriage and families.

Last spring, as part of his PhD thesis, Fang went to Shenzhen to work as a customer service manager in an underground club that provides male sex workers.

"Male sex workers are a special group... Their social roles are totally reversed with that of females. They become passive," Fang said.

During the two-month investigation, Fang lived in a room less than 30 square meters. He started work at 6:30 am and returned home at 1 or 2 am. Once

he learned something useful or heard a good story, he would go to washroom to write it down.

He regularly treated the sex workers to dinner, and the two-month survey ran up a bill of 40,000 yuan, including 30,000 that was sponsored by the Chinese Youth Scholar Forum on Human Sexuality (CYSFHS).

Support and doubt

"People's lives are changing a lot. Women sexually service men, but male sex workers are a relatively new phenomenon. These are up and coming social issues that demand scholarly research," Li Bian, chief editor of CYSFHS, posted to his blog.

"Fang Gang was able to enter the sex workers' world: not all scholars could do that," Li wrote.

However, the survey spurred doubts.

"Most critics [of the survey] are Internet users. They think my research is useless and that I am wasting time and money. My thesis was approved by a panel of professors, and that is a testament to its value," Fang said.

Quanjudé's traditional firewood roasting to go

By Han Manman

China's oldest Peking duck chain Quanjudé will replace its traditional hand-roasting methods with modern electric ovens, company manager Qingying said Sunday.

The move will cover most of Quanjudé's domestic outlets, and is aimed at maintaining food quality while the company expands its business across the country, following its listing on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange a month ago.

Traditionally, the duck is hung in the oven and roasted over firewood. It takes about 45 minutes to cook a duck, and chefs continually adjust the duck to ensure even roasting.

The electric ovens will maintain the handmade techniques, but simplify roasting procedures, Xing said.

"In some of the Beijing Quanjudé outlets and those in other cities, we will require chefs to use electric ovens to ensure the duck's quality is standardized and the procedure is automatic," Xing said.

Quanjudé's move has not been without controversy.

While many speculate that the ducks will lose their woody flavor, others said the chef-monitored roasting technique has been passed down for 140 years – it is the cornerstone of Quanjudé tradition and part of Beijing culture, and computerized production may diminish the brand.

"Without the traditional cooking method and all the culture surrounding roast duck, can we still call it 'Beijing Duck'? It is more like fast food – McDonalds and KFC," some Internet users wrote.

Quanjudé said it will spray a natural fruit juice mixture on its ducks before roasting, and promised to maintain traditional hand-roasting techniques in some of its key Beijing restaurants.

While many oppose the move, the food industry has been quick to rally to Quanjudé's banner.

"Traditional hand roasting not only produces smog and pollutes the environment, but also wastes wood. China's forest resources are being rapidly depleted, and maintaining the traditional method is not sustainable," Duan Duan Fugen, secretary general of the Shanghai Restaurants Association, said.



The Asia's largest salvage ship Huatianlong.

Photo by Huang Daohen

At the scene

The salvaging operation kicked off at 9 am last Friday, a day before schedule due to favorable weather conditions. A huge crane began lifting a steel basket containing the 30-meter-long vessel, the Nanhai I, or South China Sea No. one.

Two hours later the wooden wreck breached the surface from a 30-meter depth of water and was placed onto a waiting barge. Over a hundred reporters from home and abroad crowded the deck of Huatianlong, Asia's largest salvage ship.

The box was lifted completely the next day, with China Central Television broadcasting live the final two-hour process.

But what's so curious about the steel box? Nobody at the scene has seen the full contents.

Nanhai I ship

The Nanhai I ship, in question, is the largest Song Dynasty (960-1279) merchant ship to be discovered in China.

The discovery of the historic ship is rated in navigational history as a wonder of the world. So far, no other discovery of such a large millennial vessel has been reported worldwide and so well preserved, according to Wu Guixiong, director of Yangjiang city's propaganda department.

Like all sunken ships, Nanhai I is also expected to be a treasure trove. Actually, it is.

Last year archaeologists have recovered more than 4,000 containers made of gold, silver and porcelain from Nanhai I. "Based on available information from the exploration, the entire ship is estimated to have 60,000 to 80,000 historical relics," Wei Jun, researcher director from the Guangdong Underwater Archaeological Research Center, said.

The value and influence of the ship, after it finally emerges from water, will not be inferior to Emperor Qinshihuang Terracotta Warriors and Horses in Xi'an, Wei added.

"Therefore, some even call it the Titanic of China."

Yu Weichao, curator of the National History Museum, had the honor of naming the ship. "This was the first ancient vessel to be discovered on the 'Marine Silk Road' of the South China Sea. That's how it got its name."

With the discovery of the ancient ship, there buzzes a lot of folklore. "This wealth was firstly found by a local fisherman." Liu Haisheng, a local senior living in Zhao town in Yangjiang city, said.

Ancient shipwreck salvaged with priceless booty



The huge steel box finally emerged from the depths last Saturday.

Photo by Liang Wendong

By Huang Daohen

Tanked in a steel box, salvaged in its entirety and placed in a giant glass pool for further excavation, a merchant boat loaded with porcelain that sank off the south China coast 800 years ago was raised last Friday with the world watching.

The box is officially transferred to the custom-designed museum, the crystal palace, today.

Beijing Today raises its sails and ventures into the sea to bring back a fascinating story about a historic sunken ship and its treasure.



Vice director of the salvage project, Wang Renyi, gave the commands at the scene.

Photo by Yu Shun

More than 40 years ago, a young local fisherman named Huang Haisheng who was strong and had ample maritime experience, sailed alone to sea for fishing. When he planned to pull in the net, he found it was entangled. Huang then dove about 20 meters and accidentally found a huge vessel.

However, Wei Jun challenges the folklore. "Visibility for the researchers was even limited to just one meter with the help of lights, so it is nearly impossible for a man to dive at that depth and look for artifacts."

According to official statistics released by the Yangjiang government, the booty of the wreckage was initially found in 1987, some 20 nautical miles west of Hailing

Island, Yangjiang City, in Guangdong Province, resting more than 20 meters under the surface.

But it was not until 2001 that China's first generation underwater archaeologists explored the site and found the exact location of the shipwreck.

In 2005, a Ministry of Communications engineer Yao Chunqing proposed at a meeting that the entire ship could be lifted out of water before experts began work on it. The idea was accepted.

Raising the wreck completely

Experts worked out an unprecedented design for the salvage work and that was to use a specially - designed sealed steel box to lift the ship entirely from the seabed, Wu Jiancheng, head

of the excavation project from Guangdong salvage bureau, said.

The reason why this plan is so different is that normally, archaeologists would first excavate relics and other contents contained in a wreck before salvaging the entire ship. "In this plan, however, Chinese experts intend to raise the wreck, in its entirety. And this will keep the ship in the environment in which it had been preserved for hundreds of years," Wu said.

The design seems simple. A 35.7-meter-long, 14.4-meter-wide and 12-meter-high bottomless steel box would be lowered to the seabed to cover the whole Nanhai I, together with the silt. After that, 36 smaller panels, each 14.8-meter-long and less than one meter wide, were to be added to make up the bottom of the box to enclose Nanhai I.

The most difficult part of the job, was to construct the bottom of the box. Their attempt at putting the first of the 36 smaller panels into position took 12 days and nights, Wu said.

"The overall salvage of Nanhai I had only two results: one good, one bad. There was no middle ground. Success is great but failure is the worst," Chen Beixian, director of the Guangzhou salvage bureau, said.

But ultimately they did succeed. It took professionals on board the Huatianlong eight months to wrap Nanhai I.

Once this was done, the wreck was transferred into a 12-meter-deep glass pool, the "Crystal Palace." According to Feng Shaowen, director of the Yangjiang Cultural Bureau, conditions in the pool, such as water temperature, pressure and other environmental conditions, would mimic those in the sea where the ship had been sleeping for the past 800 years.

"This will ensure the environ-

ment won't cause any damage to the relics," Feng said.

The museum is expected to open by the end of next year and visitors will be able to watch excavation of the ship through the silt-encrusted windows on the sides of the tank.

Ship still cloaked in mystery

Though researches have been conducting underwater research over the past two years, mystery still surrounds the Nanhai I.

Archaeologists now cannot determine for sure whether it was a Chinese or foreign commercial ship. Amongst the items found onboard, are cobra bones, a gold belt and gold bracelets, which indicate a Western Asian affiliation.

Archaeologists also don't know where the ship last weighed anchor. The four batches of porcelain found include a shadowy-blue glaze typical of Jingdezhen Town in Jiangxi Province; white porcelain, which is the hallmark of Dehua Town in Fujian Province; black-glazed porcelain from Jianyao in Fujian; and celadon porcelain belonging to Longquan in Zhejiang Province.

Blue and white porcelain was popular in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, at that time, but none has been discovered so far.

Archaeologist doubted whether there were human skeletons inside the Nanhai I. A ship the size of Nanhai I should have had at least 20 crew members but no human skeletons have been found near the wreckage, Dong Qi, deputy curator of the National Museum of China, said.

"We have to wait until the cabins buried in silt are opened," Dong said, "Full excavation could take years, so we need patience and have to wait to know how the Titanic of China sank."

Nanhai I salvage triggers 'Butterfly Effect'



An ancient bracelet was recovered earlier this year.

Photo by Yang Senlin



The "Crystal Palace," still under construction, will house the ancient Nanhai I.

Photo by Yu Shun

By Huang Daohen

A butterfly flapping its wings in Tahiti can, in theory, produced a tornado in Kansas, US.

Few would have expected the salvage of an 800-year-old shipwreck in southern China could whip up a similar tornado that would rip through government, business, relic hunters and the common man.

Government: law drafting and further discovery

The discovery of the Nanhai I prompted the government to draft a plan to protect its underwater relics.

"In fact, work on the plan has already begun," Shan Jixiang, director of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH), said.

Archaeologists have, to date, located the sites of 2,000 ships sunk in Chinese waters during the heyday of its marine trading operations, according to SACH.

The merchant ship offers new clues as to ancient trade links between China and the West, and generally unveils the secrets of the "Maritime Silk Road."

"The Maritime Silk Road, like the ancient silk road, was a bridge linking eastern and western cultures," Huang Zongwei, professor at Guangdong's Sun Yat-sen University, said.

Huang hoped that the Nanhai I will prove the existence of a Maritime Silk Road that linked southern China with Europe as well as Africa and Southeast Asia.

Companies explore the Nanhai I brand

Companies have viewed the discovery as a new business opportunity. The Guangzhou-based Spacemouse Cartoon Company is one among those conducting a site-investigation of the sea.

"We noticed the Nanhai I when the government decided to salvage it in 2001," Zheng Shuai, the company's manager, said, "There are lots of things we (businesses) can do concerning the shipwreck."

Zheng and his crew, invited by the Guangdong Province culture

bureau, planned to explore a series of cultural products based on the background of the Nanhai I ship, including a cartoon model, comic book and animated movie.



The inside of the Crystal Palace.

Photo by Yu Shun

Cartoon can be used to explore archeology, because the archaeological research is objective and requires evidence and time, the company's art director Zhou Jie said.

"In a cartoon, we can make have a young hero who was on the Nanhai I before it sank. It would be easy to add in some love story elements," Zhou said.

Most importantly, Zhou said China lacks any kind of high seas mythology. "It is sad that the only thing we can imagine standing on the deck of the ship is a Caribbean pirate."

Zhou said the design for the cartoon series has been completed, and products will enter the market at the end of next year when the silk museum opens.

Advertisement banners and posters are another battlefield for business. At the Maritime Silk Museum, still under construction, the inside and outside are both covered in advertisements. "See the ancient boat, drink red wine," one reads.

"If no one told you it was a museum, it would be easy to confuse it for a shopping mall," Yu Shun, a reporter from Qingdao, Shandong Province, said.

Zhou Xiaoying (pseudonym), a representative of a Hong Kong-based health care enterprise, felt confident about her business plan in Yangjiang. For the advertising battle, she rented a venue from the local village committee near the museum for 500 yuan per week.

"It is relatively cheap, and if it works well, we will sign a long-term contract with the local village," Zhou said.

Zhou said that the company's products already have a market in the northern China, but are little-known in the South. She said she hopes the Nanhai I salvage will be an opportunity to expand to southern markets.

When asked whether commercial activity would tarnish the artistic and cultural value, Zhou said she would rather it be a "marriage" of the ancient culture

The city is under major construction to welcome the Nanhai I.

Photo by Xin You

Relic hunters

In addition to the commercial effects, the salvage of Nanhai I has raised a few eyes among the nation's relic protection authorities, now on the alert since fishermen and high-tech salvage experts have begun eyeing the Nanhai II.

The 400-year-old Nanhai II, which sank off the South China Coast during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and was discovered by two fishing boats this May, carried nearly 10,000 pieces of porcelain.

There have been sporadic attempts to steal porcelain pieces from the ship, Zhu Zhixiong, a border official with the

Guangdong Provincial relic protection authority, said.

The waters where the shipwreck lies are thought to be shallow compared with the location of the Nanhai I. Potential thieves can easily reach the depths of the Nanhai II with standard diving gear, Zhu said.

and modern business, and the business activity would benefit the local economic development and raise the city's profile.

"Both museums and businessmen will benefit; this is a win-win situation," Zhou said.

Follow-up problems

The cost and follow-up of museum management have been a matter of public concern. The provincial government allocated 150 million yuan to construct the Marine Silk Road Museum, which together with the cost of the salvage project, is equal to about 300 million yuan.

Some experts expressed worry about the fees long-term protection efforts will incur. Will the museum be able to afford daily operations after opening?

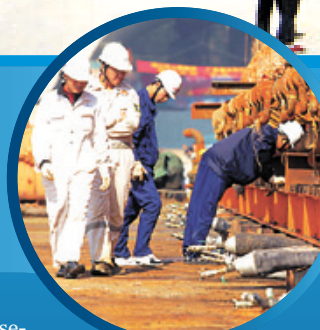
Feng Chaowen, director of the Yangjiang Cultural Bureau, said the provincial government has made it clear that the Yangjiang government would handle management of the museum.

"The museum is a public undertaking and will be backed by the government's financial support," Feng said.

The salvage program has triggered an upsurge of investment surrounding the area, and the local government will join investors to develop the cultural resources and tourism, Feng said.

Intellectual right protection has also been considered. The Yangjiang government has registered a series of trademarks in 48 categories related to the Nanhai I. Ding Xifeng, director of the Yangjiang Tourism Bureau, said.

Though the museum is not open to the public, violations of its IPR exist. Advertisements bearing the text "Nanhai I" could be seen everywhere in the Yangjiang city, especially near the museum. Even hotels and shopping centers nearby were tagged with the Nanhai I brand.



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Photo by Xin You

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Workers laid the final interior decoration of the Crystal Palace.

Photo by Yu Shun.

China's 'Iron Lady' steels self for a clean break

Wu Yi, China's only female vice premier, said Monday at a business conference that she will completely retire from government next March.

"I will retire next year after attending the annual National People's Congress session. After that, I will not hold a post in any official or semi-official or non-governmental organizations, as indicated in my report to the central government. I hope you will completely forget about me," Wu Yi, 69, the female vice premier of China, said at a members' conference of the China Chamber of International Commerce held in Beijing on December 24.

Her parting words won prolonged applause from all attendants.

Wan Jifei, chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, previously sent his invitation to Wu Yi, hoping that she would serve as honorary chairman of the council after her retirement.

The vice premier, who will leave office in several months, is optimistic, frank and humorous.

At the conference, Wu asked entrepreneurs to be honest and incorruptible, and she focused their attention toward policy studies and the investment climate for economic cooperation with foreign countries.

The iron lady, who appeared smart and healthy, said humorously that she was a modern woman and often used a mobile phone to send short messages to communicate with her colleagues and friends in her daily life.

On Christmas Eve, the iron lady took the opportunity to send her best wishes to all people with a "Happy New Year" greeting.

Forbes Magazine has listed Wu Yi, the "Iron Lady," three times as one of China's most powerful women. She has long been engaged in foreign trade affairs and is an experienced international negotiator.

Wu impressed the world by the force of her personality, especially regarding her performance during China's negotiations for accession into the WTO and the national fight against SARS in 2003.

Biography

Wu Yi, 69, a Han woman, is a native of Wuhan, Hubei Province. She was born in November 1938 and joined the CPC in April 1962. She entered the workforce in August 1962 after graduating from the Beijing Petroleum Institute where she majored in oil refinery engineering.

She spent her early career in the petroleum industry, first in Lanzhou and later in Beijing in the Ministry of Petroleum Industry. In the mid 1980s, she was a Party official and business executive at the Yanshan Petroleum Corporation, and later held government positions in Beijing. In 1993, she became Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation.

Wu was an alternate member of the 13th CPC Central Committee and a member of the 14th and 15th CPC Central Committees. She is a member of the Politburo of the 16th CPC Central Committee and a vice premier.



Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi announced her retirement during an International Food Safety Forum last month. Many regret Wu's decision.

IC Photo

Analyst

Home – normalization of political environment

On November 23, Vice Premier Wu Yi said she would retire from government in March 2008.

"When the new Chinese administration takes office next March, I will retire and won't hold any positions," Wu said in a speech to the US Chamber of Commerce in China. "I would like to take this opportunity to bid you farewell and to thank you for supporting my work all along."

This was the first time a senior Chinese leader had ever publicly talked about a political career move, though to an audience of mainly foreigners.

Vice Premier Wu Yi is

regarded as a state leader. According to practice, news about any change in her job title or retirement must be released through an official channel after the NPC meeting.

In the past, domestic media and officials concerned have always cautiously remained silent. This time, domestic media has broken adopted practice, which bears noting.

Wu Yi's talks about her retirement reflect the normalization of China's political environment. Readers also praised Wu's frankness, saying her remarks show she is a candid person.

Abroad – China's trade without the 'Iron Lady'

What will international trade be like without Wu Yi, the Chinese Vice-Premier? Everyone is guessing as she prepares to retire. The outspoken and silver-haired Iron Lady has long been the icon of China's rising trade power.

Whoever is going to take over her position will face a heap of challenges: ever-increasing protectionism in the US, rising economic nationalism in China, a large trade surplus and countless trade conflicts every year.

During Wu Yi's time, China has grown from a regional trade power to a global trade force to be reckoned with, and it should come as no surprise that there is now a strong call for Wu Yi to continue playing a role in China's international affairs.

Currently, China is embarking on a strategy of "going out" overseas in search of investments and acquisitions. Wu Yi, as a persuasive lobbyist, would be a great spokesperson for China's investing interests and – as she has often demonstrated during critical moments – she can ease the tension and facili-

tate negotiations.

Wu Yi, in charge of trade and the healthcare system, is one of the few female officials in the cabinet. She was responsible for negotiating China's entry into the WTO, and has in recent years been responsible for trade negotiations with the US. Wu Yi and US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson built the platform for the China-US Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED). SED had already been held three times.

Wu Yi is the vice-premier in charge of health and food safety, having the key task of maintaining standards on exported food products.

Her toughness and humor won her the respect of her counterparts in other countries.

"If one wants to find somebody to win the trust of the world for China, then Wu Yi is definitely the person. Also she has high prestige in the party and in the government; she is a frank protectionist of national interests," former US trade representative Charlene Barchesky said.

(Agencies)

Comment

She (Wu Yi) is a superb representative of the Chinese people.

– Henry Paulson, US treasury secretary

Wu Yi is generally respected in the international community.

– BBC, UK

"Iron Lady" Wu impressed the world.

– Forbes Magazine, US

Wu Yi is an "Iron Lady" and always adheres to her stance.

– Suddeutsche Zeitung, Germany

Through her efforts, China has improved its relationship with the WHO and regained their trust.

– Wall Street Journal, US

Wu's "iron" style of negotiation gave the Americans a headache.

– Lianhe Zaobao Singapore

China to let foreigners invest in its defense firms

(Reuters) – Beijing will allow foreign investment in its defense sector, except for enterprises controlled by the state, while encouraging these firms to raise funds through stock market listings, a senior official said on Tuesday.

China will also encourage domestically-listed, state-controlled companies to acquire and reform defense firms, Wu Fenglai, head of the reform department at the Commission of Science Tech-

nology and Industry for National Defense, said in a commentary published in the official China Securities Journal.

"Encouraging enterprises to enter market competition and to expand with aid from the equity market is an important way to help them develop," Wu wrote.

He said defense firms in which the state is not a controlling shareholder should collectively aim to raise 50 to 60 billion yuan

(US \$6.8-8.2 billion) from share listings by 2010.

China's usually secretive defense sector supplies a full range of equipment, from fighter jets and tanks to uniforms, to China's military force of more than 2 million personnel.

Some big military corporations have already spun off their civilian product businesses for stock market listings.

Wu noted that the Jiangnan

Heavy Industry Company, part of the China State Shipbuilding Corporation which builds both naval and civilian vessels, had raised 7 billion yuan through an IPO.

But he added that foreign investment would in principle be barred from defense enterprises controlled by the state, unless a foreign strategic investor could enhance the innovative, managerial and competitive ability of an enterprise.

China scraps import duty on metals

(FT) – Metal and oil prices rose on Wednesday following an announcement by China that it was to scrap import duties on copper, coal and aluminum, and half the tax on oil products from the beginning of next year.

Export taxes on some steel products, coking coal and coke will also be raised to curb profits on exports of polluting products, the finance ministry said on Wednesday.

Export taxes on semi-finished steel products will be raised by as much as 25 per cent and a 15 per cent export tax will be imposed on some stainless steel, welded pipes and other steel products in an effort to cool investment in the steel sector, the ministry added.

The London Metal Exchange was closed for the Boxing Day holiday, but speculation over Chinese demand in 2008 drove Shanghai copper futures 1.5 per cent higher to 58,850 yuan (\$8,030) per ton. Shanghai aluminum was up 0.2 per cent to 8,280 billion yuan.

Oil prices also climbed on China's announcement, which will halve the import duty on products like diesel and petrol.

Speculation over further inventory declines in the US when it releases its weekly stockpile data on Thursday also supported crude prices. Nymex West Texas Intermediate was up 48 cents at \$94.61 a barrel, while Brent crude added 58 cents to \$93.28 a barrel.

Asian shares traded higher but markets in the UK and across most of Europe were closed for a public holiday on Wednesday. Futures trading in the US indicated opening gains on Wall Street, which was open as usual after a public holiday for Christmas Day.

In China, shares in Xinjiang Goldwind Science & Technology soared 264 per cent on its first day of trading to 131 yuan on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange, far exceeding analysts' forecasts of a range of 90-100 yuan.

The spectacular listing by China's biggest maker of wind power generating equipment suggested global warming was finally making itself felt amongst Chinese investors.

Store forbidden no more



Clerks clad in Qing Dynasty Palace costume arranged the ancient antique clock Wednesday. The National Palace Museum's first designated store opened that day at the White Peacock Art World.

Photo by Liu Jun

Danone, Wahaha to end stand off

French food group Danone and Chinese beverage giant Wahaha Group will end their battle and prepare for peace negotiations, a Beijing-based spokeswoman for Danone said on Sunday.

The agreement was reached Friday night after a long negotiation presided over by China's Ministry of Commerce, Ding Ying, a spokeswoman of Ogilvy Public Relations Agency and Danone's PR agent, said.

"The announcement has been recognized by both parties. It represents their common views and wishes," Ding told Xinhua said in a telephone interview.

The announcement stated that they agreed to "call off all lawsuits and arbitrations provisionally and stop all aggressive speeches against the other party, in order to create a friendly atmosphere for peace negotiations."

Ding said both parties expressed a positive attitude towards a successful negotiation.

However, no announcement was released by the Wahaha Group. A spokesman said they had no new details so far.

Danone, which owns a 51-percent stake in the 39 Danone-Wahaha joint ventures, has accused Wahaha of setting up independent companies and selling products identical to those sold by the joint ventures. Danone had demanded a 51-percent stake in the non-joint venture companies. Wahaha rejected this request.

Since mid-year, the two companies have filed numerous complaints and lawsuits against each other under various Chinese and foreign jurisdictions.

Danone filed its first lawsuit against Wahaha on May 9 in Stockholm, and on June 4, Danone filed another lawsuit, in Los Angeles, against two Wahaha-related companies and two individuals.

Also in June, Wahaha filed a request with the arbitration com-

mission in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou over a disputed trademark transfer.

It also lodged suits in Shenyang and Jilin against Danone executives Emmanuel Faber, who replaced Zong Qinghou as chief of Danone and Wahaha's 39 joint ventures, Qin Peng, China director for Danone Asia and Francois Caquelin, a financial director, claiming they had breached company law or damaged the interests of the Danone-Wahaha joint venture.

In July, Danone filed a counterclaim against Wahaha, alleging that the company had failed to transfer trademarks to their joint venture under an agreement reached in 1996 when their cooperation started.

Danone and Wahaha negotiated for another round before French President Nicolas Sarkozy visited China late last month. The talks, however, were fruitless.

(Xinhua)

Morgan Stanley sets price for China deal

(AP) – Morgan Stanley and the Chinese government said Monday that the US investment bank has determined the range of prices to be used when China's international investment fund converts \$5 billion worth of securities into Morgan Stanley stock.

China Investment Corp. agreed last week to buy Morgan Stanley securities that will be converted into 9.9 per cent of the bank's stock in 2010, at a price of no more than 1.2 times the "reference price" that was confirmed Monday.

The Chinese investment will help soften the blow from mortgage-related debt that led the bank to report a US \$9.4 billion loss in the quarter ending November 30.

Lucent to pay \$1 million fine for bribery

(Ottawa Business Journal) – Telecommunications firm Lucent Technologies has agreed to pay US \$1 million for bribing Chinese officials in order to win government contracts, the US Department of Justice said in a release.

Lucent 2 has also agreed to pay US \$1.5 million in civil penalties to settle a separate complaint by the US Securities and Exchange Commission in which it neither admitted nor denied any wrongdoings.

In a case dating back before its merger with Alcatel SA in 2006, Lucent was accused of paying for about 315 trips for Chinese officials to destinations such as Disneyland, Universal Studios, the Grand Canyon, and to cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas, and New York.

Yahoo! China loses copyright lawsuit again

(China Knowledge) – Yahoo!, a global leading search engine and information service provider lost another round in its legal battle as the Beijing Higher People's Court upheld a lower court's ruling that the company violated copyright laws by allowing pirated music to be downloaded, Xinhua reported.

On behalf of several recording studios, the International Federation of Phonographic Industries (IFPI), filed the lawsuit in January 2007, accusing Yahoo! China of infringing the copyrights because it facilitated free music downloads by permitting links between its search engine and illegal websites with pirated songs.

The Beijing No 2 Intermediary Court had ordered Yahoo! China to pay 210,000 yuan to compensate the losses of those recording studios in April. Yahoo! China appealed the decision.

ATM thief plans to appeal case



Xu Ting

By He Jianwei

The man recently sentenced to imprisonment for taking money from a malfunctioning ATM has decided to appeal to a higher court. He is confident he will be reunited with his family, according to a letter he sent his father Tuesday.

Xu Ting's ATM case has created hot debate amongst many people, including legal experts, since last weekend. Last Sunday a University in China's

southern city of Guangzhou organized a forum to discuss the case. Five legal experts discussed the issue in the South China University of Technology focusing on three topics: whether to apply civil law or criminal law, the bank's responsibility and whether an ATM is a financial institution.

In addition, many netizens are involved in the discussion. According to statistics, over 90 percent of them think the judgment is unbelievable.

Comment

Civil law or criminal law

Theft is an activity a person does secretly. However, in this case, Xu withdrew the money using his own card in public. He didn't acquire the funds secretly.

— Xu Songlin, vice president of the Law School, South China University of Technology

When Xu withdrew the cash, only the machine recognized his identity and nobody else did. He withdrew money several times, so he had the intention to take the money illegally.

— Zhang Gu, a professor from the Law School at Beijing University

An ATM is a financial institution?

The ATM is part of the financial institution. To steal from the financial institution means to steal the property of the institution. The property in the ATM belongs to the financial institution.

— Huang Na, an assistant professor in law from the Chinese People's Public Security University

It is important to define the ATM as

a financial institution or not. Most ATMs are outside the bank. When the bank is closed, citizens can withdraw from the machine. We need a more sophisticated way to recognize the identity of people withdrawing from ATMs.

— He Weifang, a professor from the Law School at Beijing University

Bank's responsibility?

I have received counterfeit money from an ATM before. Why are the users always held responsible? Maybe we should punish the ATMs!

— You Li, a netizen

There were 23 hours between the first and last withdrawal. The bank should have had an alarm system. Why didn't the bank set off an alarm?

— He Weifang, a professor from the Law School, Beijing University

If we don't protect financial institutions, it will be easier for people to steal the institutions' property.

— Zhang Gu, a professor from the Law School at Beijing University



The case drew public concern on ATM safety.

Photo by Zi Jing

Debate of the week

Movie review riles CCTV viewers

By Huang Daoheng

CCTV (China Central Television) last week did a review of the annual year-end commercial movie, "Assembly," in its seven o'clock evening news package.

The unexpected appearance of this commercial movie review shocked a majority of the public. Over 60 percent of netizens opposed the broadcast, according to a survey conducted by Chinese sohu.com. "As an official media outlet, CCTV should focus more on social aspects and people's livelihoods. Such a long commercial movie review is lack of consideration," they claimed.

Former super girl on Time cover again

By Huang Daoheng

Former Super Girl winner, Li Yuchun, with her tomboy-style hair and shy smile, appeared again in the latest edition of Time Asia published Monday, as the representative of current Chinese pop culture.

Time said Li, 23, a pop singing major at the Sichuan Conservatory of Music, has become a new pop icon for her boyish charm and unconventional personality.

However, some opposed the magazine's selection and doubted whether Li truly represents China's current pop culture.

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Cards are usually sold in packs of 10 costing RMB 75-85 (about US \$10). The money goes a long way: Just RMB 1 provides a year's supply of Vitamin A supplements for a Chinese child, boosting her immune system and reducing his chances of childhood mortality.

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China World Shopping Mall	Dec. 1, 2007 - Dec. 25, 2007



Among primary schools in rural China, less than one in three schools has sports classes, 66% of these rural students have less than one hour of physical activity per day. This is because these schools lack sports equipment, sports facilities and teachers who can conduct sports classes. To reduce the gap between the rural and urban areas, UNICEF in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and local education authorities, promotes the "Sports-in-a-Box" project in schools in remote areas of western China. Please refer to Page 11 to learn the details of "Sports-in-a-Box". Offer your love to purchase "Sports-in-a-Box". UNICEF will send it to the schools in the western poor regions of China on behalf of you. Please write down the details of your contact information, we will send you the feedback regarding the delivery of the Box. Thank you!

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13482424149	13920585377	13550115095
13661412346	13911709735	13666074679
13818853316	13001346290	13588473747
13564347752	13389990943	13858112272
13003256940	13820985397	13952003232
13636305530	13388063699	13656008056
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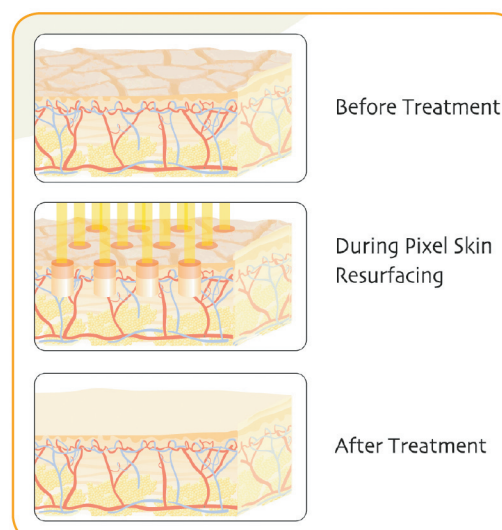


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Who Can Be Treated And On What Parts Of The Body?

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From Russia With Love

By Han Manman

Ten years ago, Valery Gergiev promised to perform at the China National Grand Theater. Now, he has fulfilled his promise by bringing the Mariinsky Theater to China with over 500 actors presenting their best works for 11 days straight from Tuesday on, in celebration of the National Grand Theater's official opening.

Russians sacrifice for China

The Mariinsky Theatre, with a cast of over 500 including the Mariinsky opera house and ballet group, is the first foreign artistic group ever to perform in the National Grand Theater since construction ended this April.

It is also the Mariinsky Theater's first time to leave St. Petersburg on Christmas Eve, and the first time its ballet and opera will be performing at the same time in one theatre.

"We broke the rules for China," Gergiev said in Monday's news conference. He disclosed that the Russian theatre had already signed an agreement with the Metropolitan Opera House in New York when they received the China National Grand Theater's invitation. Gergiev said he decided to accept the latter job and, as a result, suffered big losses for declining the Metropolitan Opera House offer.

The thrill of it all

"Nine years ago, the National Grand Theater was still under construction. It was the first time I brought Mariinsky to China. At that time, I knew that it would become one of the greatest projects in the world," Gergiev said, adding that he had participated in national theater openings in Russia, Germany, Spain and Japan but he felt that this time in China, it would be a most important and unforgettable experience.



Valery Gergiev

Photo by Zuma Cui

Commenting on the new grand theater, Gergiev said it would become the new symbol for China. He said the inside of the theater is as beautiful as the outside. The interior space design is also reasonable. "The Mariinsky Theater has

220 years of history, and the China National Grand Theater is like a new baby. This time, our theater arrives as a brother to celebrate the China National Grand Theater opening," he said.

Gergiev said in a previous interview with *Southern Weekend* that he realized the huge political meaning of the premier performance. He said, although he is only responsible for the dancing, singing and leadership, the world will turn its eyes toward the national theater and its location in Tiananmen Square. People will wonder why China decided to establish a performance center here. Gergiev said the center is sending a message to the world that the Chinese culture is taking a giant leap forward.

Swan Lake is history
"If you have already seen *Swan Lake*, be considerate of those who haven't," Gergiev said. He doesn't want the Chinese audiences to only appreciate one ballet. *Swan Lake* is only a 'deco-

ration.' *Jewels*, and *The Corsairs*, are actually our biggest performances," Gergiev said.

He suggested Chinese audiences only focusing on *Swan Lake*, leads them to believe that the Mariinsky ballet has not progressed beyond a performance that is 20 years old. That is not good news for the Russian theater.

Gergiev hopes the Chinese audiences will get in touch with new classics on the modern ballet stage by watching *Jewels*, and *The Corsairs*.

Gergiev and the Mariinsky Theatre

Valery Gergiev, 54, is something of a national hero in Russia for having kept alive the Marii-

sky Theatre after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

As the artistic director and chief conductor of the theater, and under Gergiev's leadership, the Mariinsky has become one of the most celebrated and recorded opera companies in the world.

Since the tickets are already sold out, only 30,000 audience members will get to experience the Mariinsky Company at the China National Grand Theater and gobble up the musical feast including *Prince Igor*, *Jewels*, and *The Corsairs*, which Gergiev said represent the Mariinsky Theater at its highest level. The show runs from December 25 to January 6, 2008.

Photo provided by National Grand Theater

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Maizidian opens new foreign language library

By Gan Tian

Maizidian Community in Chaoyang District opened the first foreign language public library last Sunday, adding a new flavor to the city's cultural life.

The 200-square-meter library, located in the International Youth Center of Zaobei Community, contains more than 5,000 books in English, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Spanish languages with nearly half having Chinese translations.

The library's collection focuses on travel, traditional culture and literature. Most of the selected books were published within the past two or three years. Readers who are into fashion can visit for the latest information. For example, you can read the famous fashion magazine *Esquire* from different nations.

Citizens can use their Beijing Library Card (Tushuguan Yikatong) to enter the library and enjoy the services. People who do not have a card can go to the library to apply for one with their ID card. The cost is 10 yuan. For expats, a passport will work.

The foreign language library is connected to the city's library network. If the reader borrows a book, he or she can return the book with their card in any other library in town, except Chongwen Library.

Besides books, the visitors can also enjoy the library's other services. There are separate areas especially designed for movies and music as well as an English salon and Internet café. Different language subtitles are all available in DVD format and the CDs range from



Maizidian residents rush to check out the new library.

Photo by Lin Hui

European classical music to Arabic pop songs.

Thousands of DVDs and CDs are available to keep library patrons on top of the latest trends. There is English corner open from 9 am to 12 am every Sunday, where people can make friends and practice oral English. The library is considerate enough to supply paper and pencils for the readers' convenience. Wi-fi service is also available.

Tang Jianming, director of Maizidian Community Service Center, said that the library and the community even have a relationship with the nearby embassies who will provide new books to the library regularly in the future.

Though the library is at the trial stage, many citizens have visited. Tanis Koscina, a student from Chili, said, "It's wonderful! It is the bookstore we've wanted."

Getting there: take buses numbered 300, 499 or 731 to Liangmaqiao and walk east for ten minutes. The library is on your right.

Open: 9 am - 7 pm
Tel: 6501 5019

Other places to find foreign books

The Bookworm

A widely-known place in Beijing's expat circles. You can chat, read, and drink coffee there.

Where: Building 4, Sanlitun Nanjie, Chaoyang
Tel: 6586 9507

The Bookmark

They have more than 10,000 books, a dedicated children's room, sofas and Wi-fi access.

Where: next door to the Smallville Café, behind the DVD shop, Yuxianglu, Shunyi
Tel: 8049 9175
Website: bookmarkbeijing.com

Where to find inexpensive Kung fu venues for beginners

By Annie Wei

Everything is getting more expensive. Greedy landlords asking for an extra 500 to 1,000 yuan per month, 2 yuan Yanjing beer was once 1.5, the cheapest bottled salt is now up to 4 yuan from 2 ... *Beijing Today* is digging up information on free or cheaper prices.

Free Shuangjiegun

Gou Zhongyou, 31, teaches free *Shuangjiegun*, a Kung fu style using nunchaku in Wangjing Sports Square.

Wangjing Sports Square is a large square located in Beijing's residential communities.

Gou said he liked Chinese martial arts since he was a child, and was impressed by Bruce Lee's movies.

He learned martial arts in Ermeishan, Sichuan, and spent four years in a Shaolin *wushu* school in Henan. After he moved to Beijing and worked in Wangjing, he practiced



Shuangjiegun form utilizes nunchaku.

Photo by Gao Xing

Shuangjiegun almost every night in the square.

Quite a few people showed interest in learning the art, and since then, Gou has been teaching for free.

"It's a bit too cold in winter, so I don't see many participants. But there were 30 people in summer," Gou said.

He said that practicing *Shuangjiegun* can improve one's

flexibility and sensitivity.

Where: Guangshun Bei Dajie, Wangjing

When: every day around 7 pm

Mantis style

A 60-year-old Chinese man is teaching Kung fu at an extremely low price for beginners. He charges 90 yuan for a three month session.

The reason for such a low price, according to the teacher, is to introduce more people to Chinese martial arts. There are about 20 people in his class now, and some are expats.

Where: North Gate of Ditan Park. There isn't any sign outside but you will see around 20 people gathering, just walk in to apply.

When: every Tuesday and Thursday, 8 pm - 10 pm; Sunday, 9 am - 12 pm.

Drop us a line to weiyang@ynet.com if you find anything interesting!

(By Wei Ying)

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

Do you know of any program in China that hosts a look-alike show? A fellow Malaysian friend of mine bears a very striking resemblance to the famed singer, Han Hong.

There isn't any TV station that has held a look-alike show recently. The most successful programs are presented by Hunan Weishi. When recruitment starts, they advertise a lot. The talent search for 2008 might start in spring, so keep an eye on related ads after the Chinese New Year.

Where can I watch the uncensored version of *Lust Caution*? It seemed very popular.

Most of Ang Lee's Chinese fans have already watched the uncut version online at Xunlei.com or Tudou.com. Xunlei's version is clearer than that of Tudou.com. Another option is to fly to Hong Kong.

Is there any park where I can take my dog on the weekend? I hope to find a place where I can meet other dog owners.

Try Kudi pet park or Guodu Park. Kudi pet park is a good sized park with a couple of playgrounds and a large swimming pool. The cost is 10 yuan per person.

Where: Old east side gate of Chaoyang Park, 1 Chaoyang Nan Lu, Chaoyang

Tel: 6500 6281, 6500 3590

Guodu park is also a large park, but a bit farther from downtown.

Where: Laiguangying Xi Lu, Beiyuan, Chaoyang

Tel: 8491 0403

I am crazy about singing and I want to know where the best KTV is in town.

Cashbox party is the leading one. It offers free lunch, dinner and late-night snacks.

Where: 22 Prime Tower, Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

Tel: 6588 3333 or 8857 6566

Tongyishouge has big collection and also offers free lunch, dinner and late-night snacks.

Where: 46, Xiaoyun Lu, Chaoyang

Tel: 6461 8886

Melody KTV does not have free meals.

Where: 24, Zhongguancun, Nan Dajie, Haidian

Tel: 6218 9088

Generally speaking, KTV prices vary depending on peak hours and off-peak hours, weekdays and weekends. Each of them has several venues. Please call for more details.

Are there any clinics in Beijing that offer botox shots? How is the service and how much does it cost?

The beauty business is very profitable in Beijing. You can get botox shots or similar needles in many small clinics or big state-run hospitals. The cost varies in different hospitals and the average price is between 2,500 and 6,500 yuan.



★ Twins Tower

"Shining Moment" is the theme of the decorative lights at the Twins Tower for this year's Christmas season, New Year's celebrations and next year's Valentine's Day.

The lights are composed of two gift-wrapped box models on the front wall of the Twins Mall resembling two presents for people. "We wanted to make the Twins Tower a great place for young lovers to express their love," Han Xuefei, director of the public relations department of LG Electronics (China), said, "The Twins Mall's target customers are young people. So we wanted to make the place popular among the youth. We hope that young people will consider it a good place to express their love for each other."

The light decorations will shine until next year's Valentine's Day. Every day, there will be activities in which young people can take part. "We will choose suitable days to produce man-made snow in order to make the environment more romantic," Han said.



★ Jianguo Hotel

The grounds in front of the Jianguo Hotel are all aglitter with golden lights during the evenings now. The lights and Christmas tree are all in gold. "This year, we use gold and red as two of the main colors for the lighting decorations for Christmas and the New Year," Shen Jun, staff member of public relations department of the hotel, said, "The theme this year is *liuguangyicai*, which means, lights and colors spill over from these decorations."

Shen said that every November 30, the hotel has a ceremony of lighting the Christmas lights. "Our manager, a hotel guest or a VIP pushes a button to bring the lights to life. It signifies our hotel welcoming Christmas and the New Year." The decorative lights will burn brightly until the end of the New Year holiday.

★ Beijing International Hotel

The Christmas tree smothered in glittering blue lights in front of the Beijing International Hotel is striking along Chang'an Avenue. "Two themes we want to highlight are that our hotel won this year's International Five Star Diamond Brand Award and that this year is the hotel's 20th anniversary," Miss Min from the hotel said. "People can see a diamond on the top of the Christmas tree. And we thought that a blue color represented the Christmas atmosphere and night-time very well."



Photos by Yang Dawei

A twin Christmas



The Place

Shining Christmas

By Jackie Zhang

Like all metro cities around the world, Beijing has enjoyed a growing Christmas atmosphere though the holiday is not a national festival. You could sense it through the heavy traffic jams on Christmas Eve and more and more Christmas lights adorning hotels, shopping malls and even office buildings. *Beijing Today* describes a few of the more beautiful Christmas sites in the CBD along Chang'an Avenue.

★ New World Shopping Mall

Two Christmas trees erected in front of the New World Shopping Mall at Chongwenmen are tall and colorful with various presents hanging from the branches.

The tree in front of the "Youth Hall" is 30 meters high. Models of different fairy tale characters are positioned under the tree. Snow White and the seven dwarfs are dancing; reindeer and snowmen are helping Santa busily prepare Christmas presents. Every night, the giant Christmas tree attracts many visitors who take photos.

The other tree in front of the "Comprehensive Hall" is 15 meters high. Big bows and colorful Christmas balls are hanging on the tree with the colorful lights shining throughout the night.



Photo by Cheng Yu



★ Jiangguo Garden Hotel

The theme of the light display at the Jiangguo Garden Hotel is, "Dreaming Christmas." The decorations spotlight dreams and magnificence. The main colors are white, silver, and purple with blue being the most prominent color.

In the center of the hotel's grounds, a small Christmas tree stands with a crescent moon on the very top. It is covered in blue lights, as are the rest of the trees surrounding the whole area.

"Colors can have a big influence on a person's mindset and energy level. Blue can help slow down a person's heartbeat and reduce tension. This is why we use blue as the main color this year." Wang Lei, manager of public relations of the hotel, said. "Besides, our hotel has the biggest glass window along Chang'an Avenue. The blue lights reflect off the glass. Together with the Christmas wreath and the Christmas tree lights in the grand hall, the whole grand floor appears to be filmy."

Spain pushes “Literature with an Ñ” in town

By Gan Tian

Spain's contemporary literature is appearing in China for the first time thanks to newly-translated works of Spanish novelists, writers, poets and critics introduced as part of the “Literature with an Ñ” event hosted by the Institute Cervantes of Beijing last Tuesday and Wednesday.

“Literature with an Ñ” celebrated the launch of *Ta Shiji* (*Her Century*), the Chinese edition of *La Mitad del Cielo*, a collection of twelve works written by contemporary Spanish women authors. It was translated with help from the General Book Office and the Archives and Libraries of the Cultural Ministry of Spain.

“Ñ is a special letter in Spanish. We hope that with this letter, Spanish literature will come to be widely known in China,” Wang Jun, head of the Spanish Language Department of Beijing University and host of the event's roundtable meeting, said.

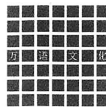
La mitad del Cielo focuses on women's relationships with men, society and the world. For example Rosa Montero, 56, an award-winning journalist for Spanish newspaper *El Pais* and contemporary fiction writer, brought *Center of Hell* (*Diya Zhongxin*, 196 pp, Nanhai Publishing House, 26 yuan).

In the novel, Montero described the experience of 36-year-old Sofia Salsa, who lost her mother during childhood and was sexually abused by her father. Later, her twin brother is drawn into organized crime, and Salsa hands him over to the police, but is threatened after he is released from jail.

Montero begins her story with Salsa's peaceful morning routine: at least until she receives a phone call from her freshly-released twin brother. As the plot develops, her childhood story and background are revealed to readers. The writer never names who is trying to murder Salsa, and instead leaves that detail for readers to unravel on their own.

When Montero wrote the novel in 2001, Spain began re-emerging as a European superpower. Its economic boom retained many of society's uglier sides: family violence, gangsters and weapons. Montero chose typical events which were happening to everyone at the time, and recounted them through Salsa's standpoint. The contrasts between developed society and the country's poor past are exposed in the woman's memories and present.

Novelist Esther Tusquets, 81, brought a highly-eroticized voice to Spain's post-Civil War literature in her book *Heaven Years*



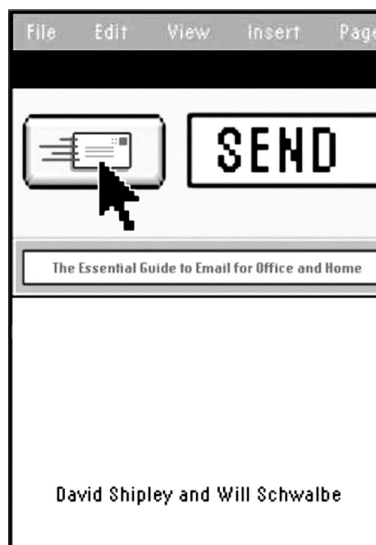
天堂之下，现代文明的华彩掩盖着一个地狱中心。恐怖主义、家庭暴力、黑社会、邪恶与丑陋的势力甚嚣尘上。而蒙特罗决不屈且。二十年来，她始终写弱者、为弱者呐喊，大有路见不平拔刀相助的唐·吉珂德遗风。不是吗？只要这世界还有不平、还有偏畸、还有压迫，和谐就意味着梦，一个唐·吉珂德式的理想主义的梦。



Rosa Montero

(*Tianci Zhinian*, 128 pp, People's Literature Publishing House, 13 yuan). Her meta-fictional approach often employed secondary but emblematic lesbian characters to delineate the limits and possibilities of female sexual autonomy.

世界文学论坛·新名著主义丛书
地狱中心
〔西〕罗莎·蒙特罗著 屠孟超译
当代西班牙文坛人气最旺的女作家，职业记者



Pros and cons of email

By Charles Zhu

Given younger readers' near-universal embrace of email, it is timely to have someone to provide a manual, rather than a handbook, about the pros and cons of the electronic medium and its inherent perils – a Pandora's Box. David Shipley and Will Schwalbe have provided such in *Send: Essential Guide to Email for Office and Home* (247 pp, Knopf, US \$19.95).

In the authors' opinion, email is a perilous power tool that will make people suffer from the equivalents of burns and bone fractures. Erroneous emails have cost jobs, harmed friendships and destroyed marriages. The authors write, “On email, people aren't quite themselves. They are angrier, less sympathetic, less aware, more easily wounded, even more gossipy and duplicitous. Email has a tendency to encourage the lesser angels of our nature.”

To prove their view, Shipley and Schwalbe cite an exchange of emails between an executive of a large American corporation in China and a secretary. The executive writes, “You locked me out of my office this evening because you assume I have my office key on my person. With immediate effect, you do not leave the office until you have checked with all the managers you support.” The secretary replies, “I locked the door because the office has been burgled in the past. Even though I'm your subordinate, please pay attention to politeness when you speak. This is the most basic human courtesy. You have your own keys. You forgot to bring them, but you still want to say it's someone else's fault.” Exposure of the correspondence reportedly led to the resignation of the executive.

Shipley and Schwalbe argue that having email does not mean we should use it for

everything. Sometimes, they say, it would be better to walk down the hall to a colleague's office to apologize or ask questions.

The problem, the authors say, is the tone. “If you don't consciously insert tone into an email, a kind of universal default tone won't automatically be conveyed. Instead, the message written without regard to tone becomes a blank screen onto which the reader projects his own fears, prejudices and anxieties,” they write.

“The exclamation point is a lazy but effective way to combat email's essential lack of tone,” for instance, “I'll see you at the conference” is lack-luster when compared with “I'll see you at the conference!” they write.

As email's novelty wears off and its limitations become all the more conspicuous, the authors advise a return to telephones when handling something complex, intimate or low-brow.

Bookworm book listing

Jenny Niven from the Bookworm has the lowdown on three of the newest releases listed at the Sanlitun cafe.

Binu and the Great Wall

By Su Tong, translated by Howard Goldblatt, 224 pp, Canongate Books Ltd, 195 yuan

Crying is forbidden in Peach village, but as a child, Binu never learned to hide her tears. Shunned by the villagers, she faced a bleak future – bleak until she met Qiliang, an orphan who offered her his hand in marriage. One day, Qiliang disappears, and Binu learns that he has

been transported and forced to labor on the Great Wall. Binu is determined to find her husband. What follows is an unforgettable story of passion, hardship and magical adventure.

Peony in Love

By Lisa See, 304 pp, Bloomsbury, 165 yuan

In 17th century China, Peony, a sheltered and obedient young girl, is allowed to see the controversial opera *The Peony Pavilion* as part of her 16th birthday celebration. During the performance, she

meets and falls in love with a mysterious young man. Already promised in marriage, she mourns for the love she cannot have, only to discover as she is dying that her stranger is her betrothed, Wu Ren. After her death, she haunts her lover

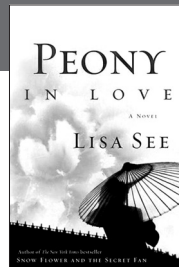
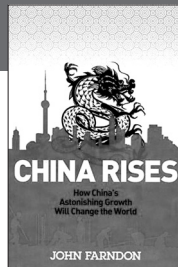
and uses Ren's new wife to write commentary on the opera to try to reach him.

China Rises

By John Farndon, 240pp, Virgin Books, 195 yuan

This book reveals the true nature of modern China and looks to the future to examine how China's growth will affect all of us. It will give readers a complete picture of this intriguing country – as it is now and as it will develop.

(By He Jianwei)



By Gan Tian

With Christmas over, the New Year is just around the corner. If you plan to buy that special someone a New Year's gift, take some advice from *Beijing Today's* experts.

All Beijing Today wanted for x-mas

Yu Shanshan

Portable polyvinyl peace

It may look ugly, but in my small bathroom, a folding tub like this is the only option. In many residential buildings built before the 1990s, the bathroom is a tiny space that combines the functions of bathroom and lavatory. My current apartment is constructed according to this old paradigm: its longest side is about 110 centimeters.

Still, I am desperate for a soak – especially after a long day in the newsroom. A long soak in the tub is so much more relaxing than standing under a shower head. My apartment is too small to store a wooden tub, though it sounds more comfortable than a folding PVC one.

This tub is only 110-by-60-by-65 centimeters and is made of three-fourths centimeter PVC. It weighs just over 3 kilograms and is supported by stainless steel trestles. After using the tub, drain it, fold it up and tuck it into any corner.

Available: taobao.com
Price: 318 - 699 yuan



Annie Wei

Bubbles to go with the bubbly

What could be more important than pampering yourself to escape daily stress?

A soak in a bubbly bath, a mask to suck the impurities out of your pores, quality shampoo and a bowl of ice cream is a great way to enjoy a warm indoor evening on chilly Christmas and New Year nights.

The Stenders bath bubble ball is one of my favorite spa products. They are naturally hand-made and have a wonderful scent. I received three for Christmas: the chocolate one is supposed to slim the body and firm the skin; the green tea one is for cleansing. My favorite is the rosy white one with rose essential oil.

Available: underground floor of Guomao, Stenders, near the ice-skating pool

Price: 35 yuan per ball; one-time use



He Jianwei

Building a real home theater

Movies are a private experience, and I prefer the home theater with sofa seating to the movie theater with soda and gum-encrusted seating.

BenQ launched their MP771 line of high-brightness Extended Graphics Array (XGA) projectors earlier this year. They have a short-throw lens, superior imaging technology and features to provide corporate and education users with easy access to the big-screen viewing experience.

The BenQ MP771 makes big-screen viewing possible even in smaller spaces. Positioning yourself close to the screen won't result in a loss in quality, and will keep the movements of viewers from affecting the picture.

Available: any IT shopping mall in town
Price: around 13,000 yuan



Jackie Zhang

Best fishes to all

My father is a tropical fish nut, so we have three tanks in my house. His tanks, however, are big and use noisy oxygen pumps. If I could get one present, it would be a new fish tank that saves space and reduces noise.

This fish tank mounts on the wall to save floor space. Its biological decomposition function can help decompose fish feces and leftover food, and that cuts down on the noise of running a motorized water filter and oxygen pump.

The retail price of this kind of fish tank ranges from 1,000 to 4,000 yuan, but online equivalents could be as cheap as 300 or 400 yuan.

Available: taobao.com

Price: 300 - 400 yuan



Annie Wei

Dreaming of dermis

A woman friend of mine spent 5,000 yuan

for five treatments at a local spa. If you are after the spa benefits but reluctant to shell out a month's salary, there is another option: the Nu Skin Galvanic spa system II.

The system has three conductors for the face, body and scalp for that DIY in-home spa experience. Its functions to restore cellular energy and enhance circulation can reduce facial blemishes and firm the skin. I have tried my friend's unit several times and it feels wonderful.

Nu Skin has opened quite a few stores in China, but this system's equipment has not entered the Chinese market yet. You can ask a senior Nu Skin sales girl to order one for you from Hong Kong.

Available: First floor of Guangcai Guoji, Gongti Bei Lu

Price: 2,400 yuan for the machine and a little extra for body, face or scalp products. The cellular gel costs 280 yuan.

Li Fenghua

Rolling into 2008

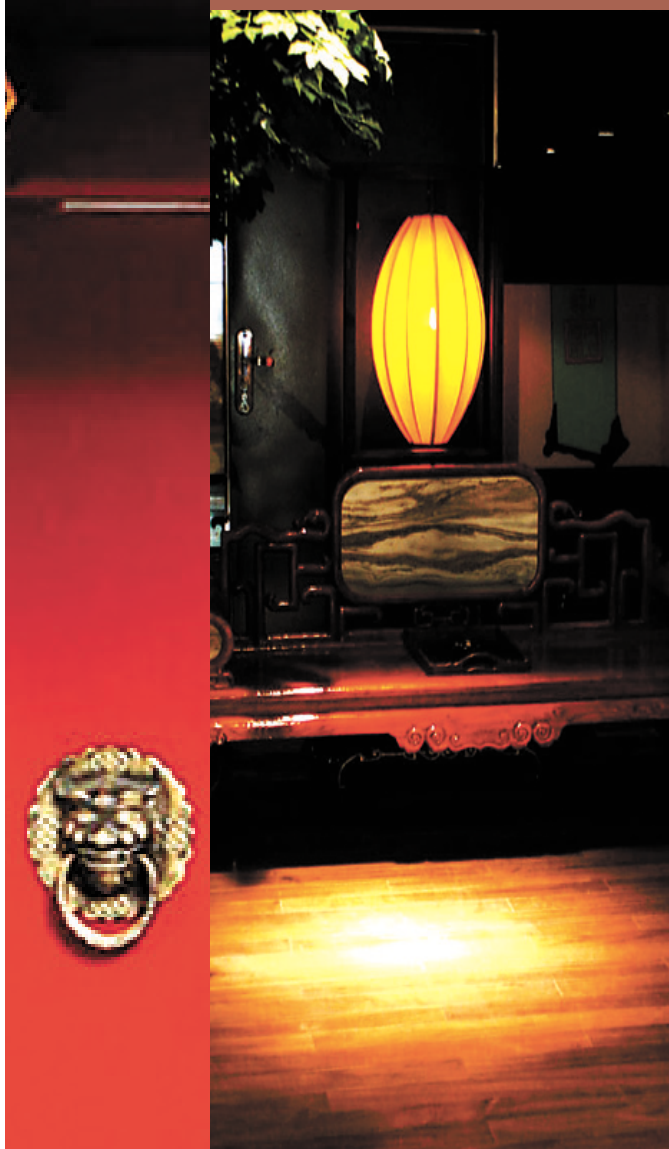
I love to bicycle: it is comfortable and a great way to relax. The drive to always go a little faster can do wonders for your health. It is one of the greatest inventions ever, but traditional bicycles have significant disadvantages. Folding bicycles are more portable and convenient, and should be part of the green mobility solution for any environmental activist.

Traffic in Beijing is hideous, but with a folding bike, you ride to the subway and tuck it into a car. Pull it out when you need it and go. Riding a bicycle is a great way to keep fit.

Available: opposite the International Exhibition Center

Price: Dahon BYA412: 1,366 yuan, Dahon PA412: 1,598 yuan

Eat like a Chinese emperor



The Chinese Encyclopedia of the Four Categories

By Gan Tian

The Hoard Executive Club is tucked away past the Changhong Bridge: luckily, a restaurant worker is outside to lead diners to the entrance. Being inside its yard is like being transported miles away from the busy and noisy East Third Ring Road. Its traditional red Chinese door stands as a reminder that diners are stepping into the past.

The two-story restaurant has a tea tasting room on its first floor and a dining area upstairs. Everything is decorated in typical ancient Chinese style – wooden chairs, rods of bamboo, man-made streams and waitresses clad in *qipao* ... the scene was reminiscent of the days when Chinese poems and songs were still written in rhythm.

The first floor has a splendid collection of china and folk arts. The most attractive treasure is a Purple Clay Teapot, valued at more than 10,000 yuan, displayed in a wooden cabinet. Narrow twisting stairs lead up to the second floor. The ceiling is a little low, but the crooked chairs work around it. The sounds the floor makes as you step on it will make you feel like the Chinese emperor.

One dish, called the Chinese Encyclopedia of the Four Categories, or *Sikuquanshu* in Chinese, is served on a small bamboo mat and made entirely of vegetables. A small bamboo sprout and several mushrooms make up the Chinese brush, and cucumbers, bamboo leaves and spinach make the book. It is extremely healthy, and the cooks select the best parts from each vegetable.

Baby Bamboo with Venison is another interesting creation. The smooth fresh bamboo sprouts with light venison combine for a mouth-watering flavor, and even one glance at the dish can inspire an Imperial-class appetite.

Ji Liejun, the restaurant's manager, is a descendant of Ji Xiaolan, the greatest Qing Dynasty scholar. "This place is for customers to experience tea, food, environment and culture," he said. To satisfy your hunger for culture while you fill the hole, make The Hoard Executive Club your next dining destination.

The Hoard Executive Club

Where: inside Yard 26, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang
Tel: 6582 8109



1. Boiled bamboo sprout, mushrooms with grasses soup; 2. Mushrooms soup with grasses; 3. The dining space

Other emperor restaurants

Le Quai

Their dishes are called "new creative Chinese cuisine." It only uses a French name because of its location in Worker's Stadium. Fill your Imperial appetite there.

Where: Gate 12, inside the Worker's Stadium, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6551 5155

China Lounge

Like the name suggests, it is a typical Chinese restaurant. The location is not bad, but you may

have to hunt for it. It is hidden behind a small tree.

Where: Inside the South Gate of the Worker's Stadium, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6501 1166

Longchengtang

The *kourou* here is really wonderful; the fish is not to be missed. Do not worry, prices are hardly budget killers.

Where: 28, Donghuangcheng-gan Bei Jie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 8717 6323

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BEIJING

Photo provided by the Hoard Executive Club

Light novels capture young readers' hearts

By He Jianwei

If you are a fan of Japanese anime and manga, you have probably heard of "light novels." *The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya* and *Shakugan no Shana* are the most popular light novels among teens and young adults in both Japan and China this year.

Perhaps inspired by the spread of the Japanese novels, Chinese young adults have created their own works, and several Chinese light novels were published this year.

What is a light novel?

A light novel is any novel with manga-style illustrations that targets teens and young adults. The term originates from a Japanese borrowing of English, and is shortened to *ranobe* or *rainobe* in Japanese.

Despite the association with anime and manga, light novels are prose: the equivalent of a young adult novel. They frequently have very short paragraphs, often only one to two sentences, and are driven by dialogue.

Light novels are written in every genre from love story to science fiction and from horror to whodunit.

Serialized Chinese light novels

In March, Guo Ni, 26, created *GirlneYa*, a magazine to publish light novels. Its circulation shot to 160,000 copies within six months of founding.

The novels in *GirlneYa* focus on youth, and sometimes contain life's greater moral lessons. Her target audience is girls born after 1990.

Since then, *Princess*, *Novoland Fantasy* and *Chu Novel* have published in China and captured more and more teenage and young adult readers.

"It is a relaxed way to read novels, and is the first time there has been any domestic literature in this style. The language has to meet the needs of the pictures," Andy Liu, a light novel fan, said.

However, Chinese light novels are still in their infancy. "The plots of some novels are quite similar, and some are too simple and naive," he said.

The spread of light novels has given young literature and comic artists a new outlet to release their works.

English editions

Licensed English translations of Japanese light novels are few, due to low demand and the quantity of text to translate being far greater in manga.

The few light novels translated to English have been reformatted to mass market paperbacks in the US. A few publishing houses have started English language serializations of light novels.

Starting in April, Japan-based Seven Seas Entertainment was the first publisher to print an English-language light novel in its original 10.5-by-15 centimeter format. Other English-language publishers producing light novels are Tokyopop, Viz, DMP, Dark Horse and CMX.



17
Trend

NE·TIGER – a royal choice

In his recent visit to China, Danish Prince Joachim chose a NE·TIGER ceremonial dress for his fiancée Marie Cavallier during a Chinese luxury brand runway show held specially for him in the Shanghai "1933" venue.

NE·TIGER launched its "Splendid Chinese Colors, Splendid Hua Fu" series in China Fashion Week 2008 Spring and Summer. It grabbed the attention of the prince, who had become engaged to his French girlfriend two months prior.

The royal banquet was the peak of luxury, with tableware used by the Danish royal family since 1775 air mailed to Shanghai. Beside various Denmark royals, a hundred ambassadors, celebrities and 25 of NE·TIGER's VIP customers attended the banquet.

Prince Joachim's has been influenced by his father, Henglike Infante, who is enthusiastic about Chinese culture and can speak the language. During his visit, Zhang Zhifeng, founder and director of NE TIGER, presented him with a Hua Fu designed specially for Denmark's royal family.

NE·TIGER's HUA FU collection combines top fur provided by the Purple Club from Copenhagen Fur with ancient Chinese Imperial tribute Yun Brocade and four famous traditional embroideries.

NE·TIGER was established in 1992 and competes for the title of China's top luxury brand. It is not only a top fashion brand for fur and leather products, but also avant-garde as a Chinese haute couture brand providing customized gala and wedding gowns.

"NE·TIGER is dedicated to the renaissance and revitalization of the Chinese luxury civilization, to representing a noble brand lifestyle to spread dreams – for the elite to create a distinguished experience. The 'N' of NE·TIGER stands for the Noble, 'E' stands for the Elegant and the 'TIGER' is symbolic of royal demeanor," Zhang Zhifeng, founder and director, said.

Zhang told the prince the Yun brocade is "painted by heaven and made by heaven." Yun brocades were



Photo provided by NE·TIGER

reserved to Chinese royal family use since 405 BC, and today, two skillful craftsmen can finish 5 centimeters per day. They say an "inch of Yun brocade is an inch of gold."

"One who knows the feel of the quality of top fur, one who understands the deep history and the value of Yun brocade and one who knows how to appreciate its meaning and the cultural background of Hua Fu must be a cultivated person with nobility, dignity and elegance. All these elements used to be reserved for royal families, and now are collected and presented by NE·TIGER," Zhang said.

Zhang said that in old society, social classes were divided by birth origin and blood. Nowadays, social class is divided by brand consumption. Among all distinctive symbols, fashion is the

most direct.

Of the 50 top luxury brands listed by Forbes, 34 are from Europe. The demand for luxury products is closely related to social economy and cultural background. European royal families and those of "blue blood aristocrats born with a gold spoon," people who received a royal education and had noble habits cultivated from birth, are the main buying force for luxury goods.

In China, "blue blood aristocracy" is almost non-existent today, but NE·TIGER aims to serve the international luxury industry with its open-mindedness and creativity, which has won approval from Europe's oldest royal families and created a path for China's "new rich" to reach the inaccessible.

BEIJING TODAY
Editor: He Jianwei Designer: Yang Gen

Spa



Empress Imperial Jade Journey

Drawing inspiration from ancient Chinese and traditional Himalayan principles, CHI, The Spa at Shangri-La – Shangri-La's signature spa brand – introduces a two-and-a-half-hour "Empress Imperial Jade Journey" at Shangri-La Hotel, Beijing.

This age-old beauty treatment, once fit only for an Empress, uses jade to massage meridian points on the face and body with aromatic oils.

The "Empress Imperial Jade Journey" is an indulgent experience that includes a "Luxurious Lotus Milk Bath" and a "Milk and Honey Wrap," followed by a soothing back and shoulder massage complemented by the "Luxurious and Pampering Imperial Jade Facial."

Where: Shangri-La Hotel, Beijing, 29 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian

When: 10 am – 11 pm

Cost: 1,580 yuan (Facial Treatment), 2,580 yuan (Package)

Tel: 6841 2211

Dining

New Year's Eve Gala Dinner and Dance



Inspired by the richness and vitality of the 1920's, Chef de Cuisine Guillaume sets the stage for culinary pleasures featuring a brilliant Fillet of Brittany Sole and the Chef's own rendition of Sauce Grand Veneur. Dessert brings you the irresistible combination of Ice Cream Lollipops with Raspberry Juice and Vanilla Coulis; free flowing wines ensure that the New Year will be welcomed on a high note.

Where: Jaan, Raffle Beijing Hotel, 33 Dongchangan Jie, Dong Cheng

When: 7 pm – 10:30 pm, December 31

Cost: 1,888 yuan

Tel: 6526 3388

Cave Cafe

Cave Cafe is a hip and inviting hangout. The decor is minimalist and jazz is played at the perfect volume.

Where: 4 Jiuxianqiao, Chaoyang

When: 11 am – midnight

Tel: 8456 5520

Xiao Xin's Cafe

Besides the welcoming staff and cool atmosphere, the big draw is the cheesecake. Enjoy a cup of coffee, a slice of cake and a seat by the window.

Where: 103 Nanlouguxiang, Dongcheng

When: 10 am – 2 pm

Tel: 6403 6956



Nightlife

For the Love of Guitar

Star Live is the only real medium-sized live music venue in Beijing that hosts local pop and international acts.

Where: Star Live, F/3, Tangguo, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng

When: 8 pm, December 30

Admission: 40 yuan (door), 30 yuan (advance)

Tel: 6425 5677, 6426 4436 ext 13



Yen Countdown

DJs features Mickey Zhang, Dio, Yangbing, Patrick Yu, Elemental and Floeysler.

Where: Yen, 706 Factory, 798 District, Chaoyang

When: 9 pm, December 31

Admission: 70 yuan (advance), 100 yuan (door)

Tel: 6211 2976

Lonely China Day

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, inside the drive-in movie theater park, 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 10 pm, December 29

Admission: 40 yuan

Tel: 8196 4820

Cool DJ Agency Presents TV Rock

TV Rock features Ivan Gough and Grant Smillie. TV Rock has had a string of number one dance tracks on the ARIA club charts and their smash hit, "Flaunt It," broke all records. The duo garnished two ARIA's for the track, selling more than 140,000 copies and going double platinum, as well as holding the record for the longest-running Australian track on the ARIA top ten ever.

Where: Angel Club, 6 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 8:30 pm – 2 am, December 29

Tel: 6552 8888

Outdoor



Celebrate the New Year in Snow Village

Snow Village is located in Dahai Forest, Heilongjiang Province. The snow there can be 2 meters high. A walking route is designed from Dongsheng Forest to Shuangfeng Forest.

When: Take train

T17 to Harbin on December 29, and transfer to Dongsheng on December 30. Take train T18 back to Beijing on January 2.

Cost: 1,400 yuan

Tel: 8489 6319 (Beijing Today Walk Center)

Hike to war tunnels, a lost village, and the Irish gold mines

The tunnels were built during guerrilla warfare with the Japanese. Over the hills from the tunnels, through a landscape of rolling hills, sits an almost deserted village. Heading out of the village, through a valley with giant weeds, you go up a hill and then head down a prickly slope, passing holes in the rock face. These are small gold mines.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

When: 8:30 am – 5 pm, December 30

Cost: 200 yuan

Tel: 13910025516 (reservations are essential)

New Year Tour to Harbin – Snow World

Harbin, often referred to as Little Moscow, is the capital of this most northerly province.

When: Take overnight soft-sleeper train to Harbin on December 30 and fly back to Beijing on January 1 evening.

Cost: 2,950 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration at the Chinese Culture Club is important)

Clothing

NE.TIGER New Product Show

Where: AA31-AA33, 1/F, Oriental Plaza, 1 Dong Changanjie

Tel: 8518 6397

Website: Ne.tiger.com



(By Li Jing)

Q&A on Scientists' Sunshine Findings

Q: For years, we have been told to use sunscreen. Shouldn't we be worried about skin cancer?

A: Cancer experts say the risks posed by other cancers are far greater than that of skin cancer, which is rarely fatal. Melanoma, the deadliest kind, accounts for a very small percentage of deaths.

Q: How much sun should I get?

A: Recommending sun exposure time is controversial, and no major health agencies do it outright. But scientists think modest amounts, such as 15 minutes a few times a week without sunscreen, may be enough to let light-skinned people absorb the ultraviolet rays needed to produce vitamin D. They do not encourage long periods in the sun without sunscreen.

Q: Why can't I just take a vitamin pill?

A: The form of D in most vitamin pills and multivitamins is not that potent. It is also possible to overdose on vitamin D in pill form, but not from sunshine.

Q: Don't foods contain vitamin D?

A: Oily fish like salmon, mackerel and tuna do, and milk is fortified with it. But diet accounts for little of the vitamin D that circulates in the blood.

Q: I'm black. Does my skin absorb enough UV rays to produce sufficient vitamin D?

A: In most cases, no. And some experts believe this may be one reason blacks have higher rates of cancer than whites. Nutrition specialists think vitamin D-3 supplements may be especially helpful for dark-skinned people.

Q: How much do I need?

A: Scientists think adults may need 1,000 international units (IUs) a day, possibly 1,500 for cancer prevention. Any more can cause the body to retain dangerous amounts of calcium.

The sun is safe

Relatively brief but unfettered exposure to sunshine or its equivalent several times a week can help ward off a host of debilitating and sometimes deadly diseases, including osteoporosis, hypertension, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, depression and cancers of the colon, prostate and breast. But like all medicines, the right dosage is critical to reaping the rewards that sunlight has to offer without suffering unwanted consequences.

Controlled exposure to sunshine can have powerful health benefits stemming from decades of research into the many roles played by vitamin D in the body. The main source of this essential nutrient is neither food nor dietary supplement. It is the sun.

Vitamin D is produced in the skin when it is exposed to the ultraviolet B (UVB) rays of the sun, as well as those from tanning machines. For vitamin D to perform its myriad of biochemical roles in body cells, it must first be converted into an activated form: the vitamin D hormone. For years it was thought that this process took place only in the kidneys, which then sent tiny amounts of the hormone to the circulatory system for delivery to other tissues.

Conclusion

Sunshine is good for you, as long as it is in moderation.

(By Li Fenghua)

CFP Photo

How sunshine triggers skin repair

A blast of sunshine can help fight skin disease and cancer by forcing immune cells to the skin's surface. Experts discovered an interesting immune process in human skin. Immune cells called dendritic cells convert vitamin D₃, produced in sun-exposed skin, into its active form.

This "active" vitamin D₃ then causes T-cells to make surface changes that allow them to migrate to the uppermost layer of the skin. T-cells are the immune cells that destroy damaged and infected cells, and they also regulate other immune cells. The findings explain how T-cells "know" to go to the skin's surface once the skin has suffered some sun-induced DNA-damage, the researchers say. They point out that the skin disorder psoriasis is sometimes treated with vitamin D₃ creams which work by moving T-cells into the skin.

Sunshine may prevent cancer

Scientists are excited about a vitamin again. But unlike fads that sizzled and fizzled, the evidence this time is strong and keeps growing. If it bears out, it will challenge one of medicine's most fundamental beliefs: that people need to coat themselves with sunscreen whenever they're in the sun.

Vitamin D is nicknamed the "sunshine vitamin" because the skin makes it from the sun's ultraviolet rays. Sunscreen blocks its production, though dermatologists and health agencies have long preached that such lotions are needed to prevent skin cancer. Now some scientists are questioning that advice. The reason is that vitamin D increasingly seems important for preventing and even treating too many types of cancer.

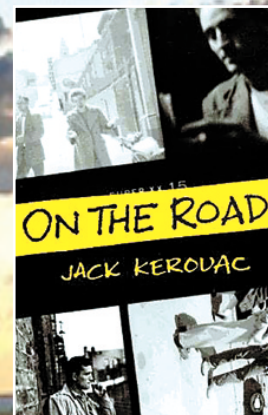
Safe in the Sun

Can sunshine, now shunned by many who fear skin cancer and wrinkles, save many more lives than it harms? A growing body of research suggests that vitamin D, which the skin produces from sunshine, might help prevent or treat many kinds of cancer. Some scientists believe that people should spend a little more time in the sun without sunscreen so that their skin can produce this helpful vitamin. Obviously, that's a controversial idea, given all the warnings about the risks of skin cancer. Here is some data addressing this confusing topic.



Fifty years ago, *On the Road*, the novel that defined the Beat Generation, hit bookstores. Its story, told in breathless, jazz-inflected cadences, was lifted from the author's life. The plot follows two friends and their assorted pals on four cross-country road trips.

To commemorate Jack Kerouac and his book, *Beijing Today* selected six sites along his route from part four of the book – its most adventurous segment.



On the road, again



Larimer Street, Denver

"The fiddle music whanged in the Larimer Street night. 'Isn't it fun?' yelled Doll. In the men's room Dean and I punched the door and tried to break it, but it was an inch thick. I cracked a bone in my middle finger and didn't even realize it till the next day. We were fumingly drunk. Fifty glasses of beer sat on our tables at one time."



Larimer square

No downtown Denver street has more history and character than Larimer, the city's original main. For nearly 100 years following the silver panic of 1893, Larimer Street was skid row. Its square, situated between 14th and 15th streets, was the first block to be redeveloped, and is a popular destination for Denver visitors and residents with unique retailers like Cry Baby Ranch and The Market cafe.

The revitalization has steadfastly continued to move north along the street, creating new commercial and residential offerings. The River North Arts District covers about half of Larimer Street from 20th Street north to 34th Street – an area that's quieter and more residential in character – adjacent to historic Curtis Park, a residential neighborhood of Victorian, Italianate homes.

Dalhart, Texas



XIT Museum

"We drove on. Across the immense plain of night lay the first Texas town, Dalhart, which I'd crossed in 1947. It lay glimmering on the dark floor of the earth, fifty miles away. The land by moonlight was all mesquite and waste. On the horizon was the moon. She fattened, she grew huge and rusty, she mellowed and rolled, till the morning star contended and dews began to blow in our windows – and still we rolled."

Dalhart, the county seat of Dallam County, straddles the border of Dallam and Hartley counties in the northwest corner of the Texas Panhandle. Dalhart is located on the southern fly-way, and is home to an abundant variety of fowl. Its native pheasant population draws sportsmen from far and wide during hunting season.



Old farm house

wildlife management area offers fishing for area residents and visitors.

Famed XIT was the world's largest fenced ranch in the 1880s. One of the town's big events is the XIT Rodeo and Reunion the first Thursday, Friday and Saturday of August, which it refers to as the world's largest free barbecue.

Fantastic opportunities for viewing and photographing birds and other wildlife await visitors. In October, migrating geese stop over and the population climbs to as many as 100,000 birds. A pond located northwest of the

San Antonio, Texas

"Suddenly we were in absolutely tropical heat at the bottom of a five-mile-long hill, and up ahead we saw the lights of old San Antonio. You had the feeling all this used to be Mexican territory indeed. Houses by the side of the road were different, gas stations beater, fewer lamps."



The McNay Art Museum

San Antonio captures the spirit of Texas. Native Americans first lived along the San Antonio River, calling the area "Yanaguana," which means "refreshing" or "clear waters."

San Antonio has two impressive art museums. The McNay Art Museum is set in a Mediterranean-style mansion and has wide-ranging collections, including post-impressionist and modern art, theater art, Medieval art, Native American art and more.

The San Antonio Museum of Art is noted for its antiquities collections, Mexican folk art, modern art, pre-Columbian art, Spanish colonial art and the Nelson Rockefeller Center for Latin American Arts.



San Antonio Museum of Art

Continued on page 21 ...

...continued from page 20



A statue in the streets of Laredo

Laredo, Texas

“ I was so exhausted by now I slept all the way through Dilley and Encinal to Laredo and didn't wake up till they were parking the car in front of a lunchroom at two o'clock in the morning. 'Ah,' sighed Dean, 'the end of Texas, the end of America, we don't know no more. ”

Laredo is known as the Gateway to Mexico. It is located on the US-Mexico border, about 150 miles southwest of San Antonio, 135 miles west of Corpus Christi and 150 miles north of Monterrey, Mexico.

Starting in 1848, Laredo entered into its first sister-city relationship with Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, directly across the Rio Grande. Since then, other cities from Mexico and other parts of the world have embraced Laredo as their sister.



Main square in Mexico City

Monterrey, Mexico

“ Entering Monterrey was like entering Detroit, among great long walls of factories, except for the burros that sunned in the grass before them and the sight of thick city adobe neighborhoods with thousands of shifty hipsters hanging around doorways and whores looking out of windows and strange shops that might have sold anything and narrow sidewalks crowded with Hong Kong-like humanity. ”

With a bit of European flair and a touch of “Americana,” Monterrey is a culturally hip city. Despite the fact it's located in north central Mexico instead of along one of the country's popular and beautiful coastlines, it boasts tremendous culture and nightlife.

Monterrey's “Old Town” is the heartbeat of this city's nightlife and it's filled with huge dance clubs with some very cool bars sprinkled in between. It is concentrated on two main streets with a couple of side streets. A seemingly-endless line of cars roams the streets and hundreds of people are walking from one place to another.



Mexico City, Mexico

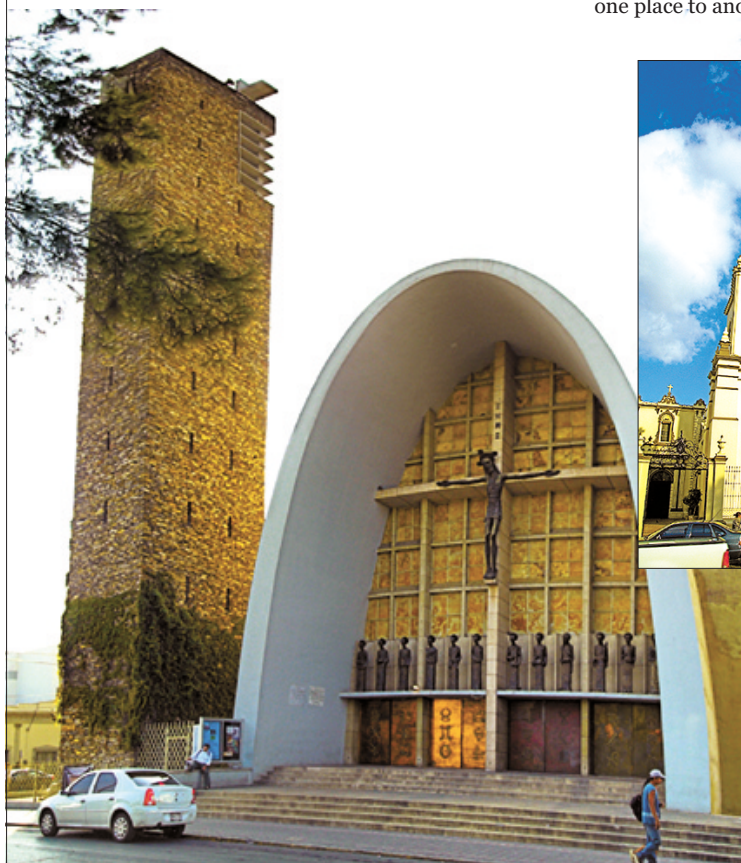
“ In downtown Mexico City thousands of hipsters in floppy straw hats and long-lapeled jackets over bare chests padded along the main drag, some of them selling crucifixes and weed in the alleys, some of them kneeling in beat chapels next to Mexican burlesque shows in sheds. ”

Mexico City is the political, financial and cultural nerve center of Mexico, and to understand the country one should spend some time there. Perhaps more than any city on earth, it is at the intersection of the first and third worlds, with all the ills, thrills and surprises that suggests.

One moment the city is all Latin beats, glamor and excitement; the next it is drabness, poverty, suffocating crowds and rancid smells. In spite of the negatives, Mexico City is a magnet for Mexicans and visitors alike. You certainly won't be bored in this complex, historic city.

Downtown Mexico City has been an urban area since the pre-Columbian 12th century, and the city is filled with historical buildings and landmarks from every epoch since. It is known as the City of Palaces, because of the large number of stately buildings, especially in the Centro. In addition, Mexico is the city with the largest number of museums in the world without taking into account Art Galleries.

(By He Jianwei)



Monterrey's church

A church in Monterrey's "Old Town"

Photos provided by Pbase.com

Scene 1:

(Flash of quick dissolves ⁽¹⁾: a little girl's hands, coffee colored, slowly braiding hair, pulling unruly, nappy ⁽²⁾ strands into neat rows, securing them with brightly-colored plastic bobbles. The hands dissolve into a teenager's hands, working a flat iron, pressing sections that curl into careful waves ...)

(Gina Morris smiles, shakes her head at the radio. There's a sexy, playful spark to her masking a kind of innate ⁽³⁾ wisdom. The blonde she's been working on is seated in a plush ⁽⁴⁾, back alcove ⁽⁵⁾ at Jorge Cristophe's upscale salon. Joanne stands up, shakes her head and turns to look in the mirror. She gasps, both hands over her mouth. Her hair has been blown out, pressed into a sleek Japanese style. She shakes her head, loving it.)

Joanne: Oh, my god! Gina!

(Gina smiles proudly, making a few final adjustments to the hair. Other stylists in the front are peering ⁽⁶⁾ in. Jorge Cristophe, the long-haired salon owner, gets up from his seat in front. He's an arrogant sell-out. He glances briefly at Gina and burns with a muted jealousy.)

Joanne: I've never had anyone get the cut and the extensions just right. That stuff of yours is amazing ... and believe me, I've tried everything.

(Gina grins.)

Gina: That's an old family recipe that I've messed with a little. All I'm gonna say is there's Avocado oil and a little bacon fat in the mix.

(Outside, we see a Jaguar pull up. The valet opens the door for a Donna Karan-clad society wife, Terry Green, mid-30's. She fumbles ⁽⁷⁾ for the keys, almost drops them. She smiles, embarrassed, slips a ten-dollar bill to the valet.)

(Jorge stands at the door, waiting. He puts an arm around Terri, whispers something in her ear, smiling, charming her as he leads her to the back, pressing her close.)

Jorge: (to Gina) Terri's here ...

Gina: (under her breath) Jorge, I have to leave at four. I need to pick Valerie up from school.

(Jorge gives her a cold shrug.)

Jorge: What can I do? She wanted you...

(His diction is perfect; his charming, sexy attitude dissolves around Gina. Gina takes a deep breath, trying to keep it together.)

Terri: Gina!

Gina: Terri! My girl!

Terri: I just had the most amazing chakra treatment. Gina, I have to take you to see my healer.

(Lynn hands her an Evian and a robe. She immediately pulls out a massive vial ⁽⁸⁾ of pills and downs a couple smiling apologetically.)

Beauty Shop (2005)

**Synopsis:**

Gina, played by Queen Latifah, has moved away from Chicago to Atlanta so her daughter can attend a prestigious music school. She has made a name for herself at a posh European-style salon owned by the famous hairstylist Jorge. After a scuffle with her boss, Gina decides to quit her job and pursue her dream of owning her own beauty shop. She brings with her a few loyal customers and another worker from the salon. With the help of her family and her electrician slash romantic interest who lives above the shop, Gina finds success with her beauty salon.

Movie of the Week

By Wei Ying

Who said fat women are not sexy and lovely? Queen Latifah is one of my favorites, especially for her funny and strong personality that helps make this movie shine.

Scene 2:

(Gina quits Jorge's salon and decides to open her own. She explores the city. Lola snorts ⁽⁹⁾, impressed, but trying to hide it.)

Lola: So why you wanna buy this dump?

Gina: I got a plan. You see 'dump' I see potential.

(Lola glares at her. Ahsley, overhearing, comes over.)

Ahsley: Ooh. A visionary. How poetic.

Gina: Poetic? Nah. Just smart.

Scene 3:

(Gina talks to a loan officer and tries to get a loan. But things do not go smoothly.)

Gina: This is not working for you. You've got great bone structure. The bands are cutting off your face. You need highlights, not color.

Gina: (continuing) You got a sink? (After she finishes the loan officer's hair. Gina spins her around, fluffs ⁽¹⁰⁾ out her now-dry hair, and faces her toward the mirror.)

Scene 4:

(On the opening day of her new store, Gina talks to the girls she has hired.)

Gina: I don't want no drama in here, okay? No boyfriends or sisters coming in and having it out with you while you're working. Okay? You got a problem, you got something to say, you come to me.

Lola: (under her breath) Great. She wants a high class joint at ghetto ⁽¹¹⁾ prices. Figure that out.

**Vocabulary**

1. dissolve: to break down into parts or elements

2. nappy: in this case, unruly, tightly braided hair

3. innate: existing in one from birth; inborn; native

4. plush: abundantly rich; lush; luxuriant

5. alcove: any small, recessed space

6. peering in: glancing in at someone or something

7. fumbles: to handle clumsily or inefficiently

8. vial: a small container, usually

made of glass, for holding liquids

9. to snort: to express contempt, indignation by making a "snorting" sound through your nose and mouth

10. to fluff: to make into fluff; shake or puff out into a fluffy mass

11 ghetto: a section of a city, especially a thickly-populated slum area, inhabited predominantly by members of an ethnic or other minority group, often as a result of social or economic restrictions, pressures or hardships.

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Don't shoot the singer, you son of a gun

By Gan Tian

As a music fan, I often hear terms that I don't understand at all.

I remember the days when I loved The Carpenters. I sang their song, "Jambalaya" all day long. I loved the repetitive "oh" sounds and the lovely Mississippi scenes they painted in their lyrics, "Goodbye Joe, he gotta go, me oh my oh! He gotta go, pole the pirogue down the bayou! His Yvonne the sweetest one, me oh my oh! Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the bayou!"

What confused me a lot were the lyrics, "Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the bayou!" which appeared many times throughout the song. I was familiar with the slang, "son of a bitch," and I thought, "son of a gun" had the same meaning. But why would such a foul slang expression appear so many times in such a lovely song? Wasn't the tune supposed to present a romantic picture?

A few years later, I began listening to Janet Jackson. In 2001 she released an album called, *All For You*. I didn't hesitate to buy it, and to my great surprise, there was a song on the album called, "Son of A Gun"! Wow! Using obscene slang in a song title! I couldn't believe it!

I studied the song carefully. The full name of the song was "Son of a Gun (I Betcha Think This Song Is About You)." I discovered that the lyrics didn't have anything to do with dirty words. It described a boy experiencing growing pains and self-discovery. "You are such a romantic hero. The way you dress and look yourself over. It's no wonder you would ponder that image of your greedy self in that mirror."

Everyone has experienced growing pains, as it said in the title, "I bet you think this song is about you."

Janet Jackson and Carly Simon – who teamed with Jackson on this song, made the expression, "son of a gun" famous in her 1970's hit, "You're So Vain" – were actually talking about a particular person. Suddenly I understood that "son of a gun" didn't mean anything rude. When someone uses this expression, it is another way of referring to them like "buddy" or "dude".

Don't shoot your friend if he calls you a son of a gun!

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

1. The mountain is desert.

The word "desert" does not work in this sentence since it is a badly placed noun. Besides, a mountain is a mountain. It cannot be a desert unless it is going through an identity crisis! The writer is going for the word, "barren" here. The sentence should read, "The mountain is barren."

2. Voices on what we do well and do bad.

To do anything bad is never good grammatically. That's as bad as saying, "You done good," a common expression from a lot of old cowboy movies. Jesse

James, we ain't! In the above sentence, the adjective form of the word, "bad" has to be turned into an adverb to be correct. Then, you must also add another "what we." The proper sentence now reads, "Voices on what we do well and what we do badly. That's much better. "You done good, Jesse!"

3. Make them be aware of environmental protection.

To be or not to be, that is the question. In this case, the answer is not to be. Though this sentence is not terribly constructed grammatically, the "be" is not necessary. It can and should read, "Make them aware of environmental protection."

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. The mountain is desert.

"Desert" is a noun. It is not proper to have it serve as a predicate for the word "mountain." Actually the writer of the sentence wishes to say: The mountain is barren. It can never be "desert."

2. Voices on what we do well and do bad.

"Do bad" is not a proper English form and grammatically wrong. At least, it should be: do badly. Then, it is necessary

to repeat "what we" in the prepositional clause, "Voices on what we do well and what we do badly."

3. Make them be aware of environmental protection.

Grammatically speaking, there is nothing wrong with this sentence. However, rhetorically, the verb, "to be" can be omitted as "making somebody aware of something" is perfectly acceptable.

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.



Curious circumstances

By Derrick Sobodash

One of the most sure-fire ways to create a Chinglish sign is to not double and triple check your word usage in an English dictionary.

That is precisely what happened with this creative little garbage can.

Its message reads, "Protect CircumStance begin with me."

Clearly, the word "CircumStance" is what is so stunningly out of place – almost as stunning as the writer's use of capitalized "C" and "S" glyphs. The error here was in translation of the Chinese word *huanjing*, which basically means the conditions around you at any given moment.

The three equivalent words listed by the dictionary are environment, circumstances and surroundings. Surroundings could work, but would sound odd: environment is a much better choice. Tack on a "the" too – it needs it.

After substituting the word, the sign's only remaining problems are in verb conjugation. In present tense, "begin" is correct when the subject is "I," "you," "we" or "they," but when it is an "it," like "the environment," it becomes "begins."

A correct sign would read, "Protecting the environment begins with me."

Still, this growing use of "me" on public signs has an unsettling New Age funkiness. It would be preferable to write, "Protecting the environment begins here," or even better, "Environmental protection begins here."



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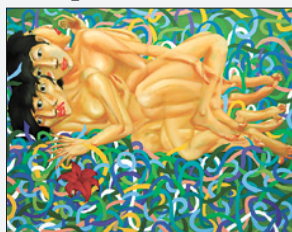
CHRISTMAS 2008 NEW YEAR CHINESE NEW YEAR

CHAO YANG PARK EAST GUANHU GARDEN TOWER S1
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Royal Caribbean INTERNATIONAL
"EVERY MONTH"

Friday, December 28

Exhibition Righted & Lefted - Group Exhibition



The exhibition features Xiao Se, He Hongzhi, Zhang Donghong, Guo Wei, Fu Lei and Gao Fang.

Where: The Fifth Element Gallery,
 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 11 am - 6 pm,
 until February 9

Admission: Free
 Tel: 6432 1338

Refresh: Emerging Chinese Artists



Where: Arario Beijing, Brewery
 Art Complex, Beihuqu Lu, Anding-
 men Wai Dajie, Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 10 am - 6 pm,
 until January 20

Admission: Free
 Tel: 5202 3800

Movie

Ah! Si J'étais Riche

Where: French Culture Center,
 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion,
 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm
 Admission: 10-20 yuan
 Tel: 6553 2627

Saturday, December 29

Exhibition Reality and Unreality

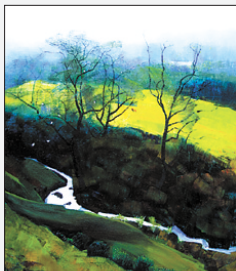


Where: Gaodi Gallery, 798
 Art District, 2 Liuxianqiao Lu,
 Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun noon - 7 pm,
 until January 27

Admission: Free
 Tel: 6437 7177

Wang Changkai Solo Exhibition



Where: Beijing Wan Fung Art
 Gallery, the Imperial Archives,
 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng

When: Mon-Fri 9 am - 5
 pm, Sat-Sun 10 am - 5 pm,
 until January 7

Admission: Free
 Tel: 6523 3320

Wang Haiyang Solo Exhibition

Where: Today International
 Gallery, F/1 Beijing Today Art
 Museum, Building 4, 32 Baiziwan
 Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am - 5 pm,
 until January 6

Admission: Free
 Tel: 5876 9392

Sunday, December 30

Exhibition 2007 Winter - Group Exhibition

The exhibition features
 Gao Feng, Ku Xueming, Li
 Mingzhu, Shi Lifeng, Si Yong-
 ping, Tang Jie, Wu Yong, Yu
 Xia, and Zhang Jisheng.

Where: Gallery Mook, 2 Jiuxianqiao
 Lu, Chaoyang

When: Mon-Fri 10 am - 6 pm, until
 January 20

Admission: Free
 Tel: 8459 9550

Altered States



The exhibitions offer a unique lens
 showing new perspectives in contemporary
 Chinese art.

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen

Watchtower, Chongwen

When: Daily 10 am - 5 pm, until
 February 29

Admission: Free
 Tel: 6525 1005

Family Stuff - Group Exhibition of Huang Qingjun and Ma Hongjie



Huang Qingjun and Ma Hongjie visited
 a number of areas and regions in China,
 selecting the most typical residential
 images that are in tune with the current life
 conditions in China.

Where: 798 Photo Gallery, 4 Jiuxianq-
 iao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am - 6 pm, until
 January 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 1784, 6437 5284

Stage in January

Dance

Ballet Jewels by Kirov

Who: Kirov

Where: National Grand
 Theater Opera theater, on the
 west side of the Great Hall of
 the People

When: 7:30 pm,

January 3-4

Admission: 280-1,280 yuan

Swan Lake by Russia

Ballet Troupe

Who: Russia Ballet Troupe

Where: Poly Theater, 14
 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie,
 Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, January

31 - February 1

Admission: 50-1,000 yuan

Drama

Musical Cats

Who: The Really Useful

Group's International Tour-
 ing of Andrew Lloyd Web-
 ber's production

Where: Beijing Exhibition
 Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai
 Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm,

January 19-27

Admission: 80-1,680 yuan

Concert

Soprano Te Kanawa

Solo Concert

Who: Te Kanawa

Where: National Grand
 Theater Music Hall, on the
 west side of the Great Hall of
 the People

When: 7:30 pm, January 2

Admission: 180-1,680 yuan

Lang Lang Piano

Solo Concert

Who: Lang Lang

Where: National Grand
 Theater Music Hall, on the
 west side of the Great Hall of
 the People

When: 7:30 pm,

January 3-4

Admission: 180-2,008 yuan

Berlin Philharmonic

Brass Quintet

Who: Berlin Philharmonic
 Brass Quintet

Where: National Grand
 Theater Music Hall, on the
 west side of the Great Hall of
 the People

When: 7:30 pm,

January 7-8

Admission: 50-580 yuan

World Famous

Tenor Jose Carreras

Solo Concert

Who: Jose Carreras

Where: National Grand
 Theater Music Hall, on the
 west side of the Great Hall of
 the People

When: 7:30 pm, January 18

Admission: 380-1,880 yuan

China Philharmonic Orchestra 2007-2008

Musical Festival

Who: China Philhar-
 monic Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan
 Music Hall, inside Zhong-
 shan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, January 18

Admission: 80-880 yuan

Vitas 2008 Beijing Concert

Who: Vitas

Where: Capital
 Gymnasium, 5 Baishiqiao, Xi
 Zhimen, Haidian

When: January 24

Admission: 280-1,880 yuan

(By Li Jing)